

Hafa Adai!

Former Ukrainian citizen, 37 others are naturalized. PAGE 2

US Coast Guard, CNMI partners to hold exercise on Saipan. PAGE 7

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 167

www.saipantribune.com

TUESDAY AUGUST 23, 2022

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OPM DESK AUDIT ON DOC

Staff exhausted, demoralized

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Desk audit finds DOC averages \$30K to \$50K in overtime per pay period

There is plenty of overtime work to be had at the Department of Corrections because of staff shortages, but this situation has also led to many of the staff suffering from exhaustion and low morale, with the average work hours of a Corrections officer being between 12.5 hours and 16 hours per day for a six-day work period. That's among the findings of a desk audit the Office of

Personnel Management did at the department, which also uncovered the low morale within

DOC, especially as it pertains to relations with the department. See STAFF on Page 4

US, S. Korea open biggest drills in years amid North threats

By KIM TONG-HYUNG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The United States

and South Korea began their biggest combined military training in years Monday as they heighten their defense. See US on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor



CEC's Igitol recommends certifying candidacies of Rep. John Paul Sablan, 6 others

Commonwealth Election Commission board chair Jesus I. Sablan examines a document as he asks Alfredo Taimanao, who is sitting opposite Sablan, during the CEC board's hearing yesterday morning, on Taimanao's appeal of the CEC's challenge to his candidacy. Taimanao is running for Rota mayor as an independent in the Nov. 8 general election. Also in the photo, clockwise, are assistant attorney general Clark Dela Cruz, board vice chair Esther Yatar, commissioner Leilani Manglona, commissioner Jesus S. Cepeda, Taimanao, deputy attorney general Lillian A. Tenorio, CEC executive director Kayla S. Igitol, and commissioner John Attao.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

» CEC board places under advisement Taimanao's appeal; Quitugua failed to appear at the CEC hearing

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Election Commission executive di-

rector Kayla S. Igitol recommended yesterday that the CEC board certify the candidacies of seven candidates, including long-time Rep. John

Paul Sablan (R-Saipan).

Aside from Sablan, Igitol also recommended without a hearing to certify the candidacies of Marissa Flores,

Keith William C. Ada, Edward Maratita, Edward Barcinas, Julie Ogo, and Dennis C. Mendiola.

See CEC on Page 4

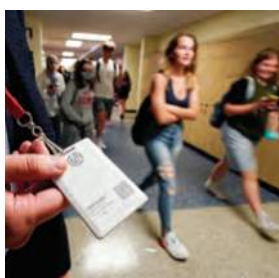
INSIDE



BUSINESS

Six months after Russia invaded, the effects are a devastating threat to the global economy.

PAGE 11



NATION

Panic-alert buttons are gaining traction nationwide amid a surge in school violence that includes shootings.

PAGE 12



ASIA

Millions of students wearing face masks stream back to primary and secondary schools across the Philippines.

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Local



The first batch of naturalized citizens during yesterday's back-to-back naturalization ceremonies pose for a photo with U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona, far left, after the swearing-in portion of the ceremony.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES



The second batch of naturalized citizens during yesterday's back-to-back naturalization ceremonies pose for a photo with U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona, far left, after the swearing-in portion of the ceremony.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Former Ukrainian citizen, 37 others are naturalized

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI swore in 38 new U.S. citizens in a back-to-back naturalization ceremony yesterday, including one who is a former Ukrainian citizen who, despite the Russian attacks, remains optimistic that his beloved Ukraine will prevail.

Oleksandr Galadzhii was the sole Ukrainian national to be sworn in by District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona yesterday morning as part of the first batch of naturalized citizen. He was joined by Mark Anthony Tesero, Maria Luz Bocago Lingal, Demy Villaganas Carpio, Reynaldo Salas Darag, Nenita Velasquez Delos Santos, Jeffry Manarang Fernandez, Juanita Ebba Kaijo, Wilfredo Manlutac Lagason, Ma. Ronita Angeles Mallari, Juvy Balagot Martinez, Eduardo Binag Olarte, Elmer Evangelist Pineda, Teresa Tellei Pineda, Jina Ong Sablan, Kyung Ran Seo, Danielle Youn Jung Su, Lorna Nieves Tereyama, and Iosefatu Tuigamala.

Yesterday's second ceremony included Gabriel Agbayani Alcaraz, Nena Laparejo Babauta, Cina Boan Bacani, Agripino Soriano Buniag, Teofilo Labarda Dalimocon, Imelda Riola Deleon, Nazmul Hoque, Chin Shan Hsieh, Elizabeth Mesa Licup, Francisca Barriga Pinaula, Orlando Olalia Pineda, Mihir Rashmi Rout, Joice Santos Sablan, Mustafa Fakhruddin Shakir, Nazario Alido Sumagpang, Tatiana Tsoi, Lolita De Cas-



Oleksandr Galadzhii, center, the only Ukrainian citizen to be naturalized yesterday, poses for a photo with his wife and daughter following his swearing-in ceremony at the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

tro Turlao, Francisco Abalo Villamin Jr., and Mary Joy Alcuran Yebra.

In an interview with Galadzhii, who is self-employed and works in the pharmaceutical business, he said that naturalization has been his dream and goal for the longest time and he couldn't be happier now that it has finally come true.

"I've been [on] Saipan for four years. I started my petition here. This is so important for me because I've wanted to become a U.S. citizen for more than 10 years. This is probably one of the happiest days for me," he said.



As a new citizen, Galadzhii said his first task is to register to vote as responsible citizens should.

"I am going to register to vote here for sure. We don't plan to move away from

Saipan anytime soon. Aside from the fact that we love the island and that our daughter goes to school here, because of the situation that the world is in right now, being pretty unstable, we intend to live here," he said.

Galadzhii also extended his thanks to all those whose hearts are with his mother country, Ukraine.


"As far as Ukraine, they are in a terrible position right now. I hope the war will end soon and that Ukraine will win. As a Ukrainian, I thank the United States for doing what they can for Ukraine. I thank all the people who have, and who continue to suffer for Ukraine. I am confident that Ukraine will come out the victor in this war thanks to the support of countries like the United States," Galadzhii said.

Division of Youth Services (DYS)
Department of Community & Cultural Affairs

MISSION
Strengthening families to promote the well being of youth, families and community as a whole.

CONSUMERS
Victims of Child Abuse and Neglect and their family members; Juveniles detained at the Juvenile Detention Facility and their family members; Juveniles on probation and their family members; Youth At-Risk; Parents At-Risk; Homeless Individuals and Families; Youth in General (prevention); Adults in General (prevention)



DYS SECTIONS

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

Supportive Services;
Human Resource and Accounting;
Tel. No. 237-1000 to 1004

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES (CPS)

24/7 Response on Child Abuse and Neglect Reports;
Foster Care/Kinship Placements
Tel. No. 237-1005 to 1014
On-Call #s: 285-2780/2781

EMERGENCY SHELTER (ES)

Home away from home; temporary placement for children removed from home for protective custody

JUVENILE PROBATION

Crisis Response to Juvenile Cases/Delinquency Reports; Monitoring of Court Ordered Conditions for Juveniles
Tel. No. 237-1024 to 237-1030

FAMILY & YOUTH ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (F&YEP)

Evidenced-Based Programs for youth & adults, including programs at the Kagman Community Center and Tanapag Youth Center
Tel. No. 237-1015 to 1019
Parent Helpline: 287-2847

DCCA DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES
FY 2020 and 2021 DATA

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES	FY2020	FY2021
CHILD ABUSE CASE CASES	271	285
NUMBER OF VICTIMS	743	863
TYPES OF ALLEGATION		
Physical Abuse	74	64
Sexual Abuse	63	70
Emotional Abuse	129	152
Neglect-General	189	158
Others (Support Services, Teen Preg., Domestic Violence, Minor sex trafficking, Truancy, Suicidal)	73	55
JUVENILE PROBATION	FY2020	FY2021
Number Of Juveniles On Probation	45	63
Number Of Incarcerated Youth Served	81	25
Number Of Youth Served With The Pss Student Attendance Review Committee (Sarc)	46	88
EMERGENCY SHELTER PROGRAM	FY2020	FY2021
Number Of Children Sheltered	19	37
FOSTER CARE PROGRAM	FY2020	FY2021
Number Of Children Fostered	31	34
Number Of Children In Kinship Placement	1	24
FAMILY & YOUTH ENHANCEMENT PROG.	FY2020	FY2021
Number Of Individuals Served	469	511

GET IN TOUCH

DYS TINIAN: 433-9393 or 287-3268
DYS ROTA: 532-9393 or 287-2553

DYS Website: <http://www.dys.gov.mp>
DCCA Website: <http://www.dcca.gov.mp>

'Medicaid situation with Guam pharmacies being worked on'

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI State Medicaid Agency confirms that Guam pharmacies currently do not accept CNMI Medicaid to cover—fully or partially—medication for most CNMI referral patients seeking treatment in Guam, but this is situation is temporary and a resolution is now being worked on.

According to Vicenta Borja,

CNMI State Medicaid Agency acting director, Guam pharmacies are not accepting CNMI Medicaid “at this time. But, we are working on it. We are discussing this with Region 9; we are trying to address the issue,” she said.

She explained that this is simply because there is no contract between the CNMI's State Medicaid agency and Guam pharmacies that reimbursements will be provided.

“In order for the CNMI Medicaid program to pay for services outside of the CNMI, contracts need to be executed. With Guam, it is mandatory. So any patient that will be sent to Guam, a contract must be in place in order for us to reimburse the providers. There is a limited [number] of providers...that are contracted with us. However, we are trying to expand. Right now, we don't have any contracts with the

pharmacies in Guam. However, Medicaid does have a small number of contracts with healthcare providers [in] Guam,” she said.

Meanwhile, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muña reiterated that Medicaid is not considered an insurance.

“Medical referral is not a payer; we are not considered an insurance. [Medicaid] is used as a means to coordinate access to [off-island] care in a cost-efficient way,” she said.

However, Muña also shared

that the program does make exceptions on a case-by-case basis. This essentially means if it is a life-or-death situation and there really is no other resource to exhaust for a medical referral patient, then Medicaid may cover a portion of the needed medication.

“We have a CNMI Medicaid office [in] Guam. Our Medical Referral patients are always welcome to visit the office and inform them of their situation,” she said.

Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-

Rota) earlier wrote Muña and Borja, asking them to address the issue of Guam pharmacies no longer accepting CNMI Medicaid to cover prescriptions for CNMI medical referral patients who are seeking treatment in Guam.

In his letter, Manglona said it was recently brought to his attention that pharmacies in Guam are no longer accepting CNMI Medicaid to cover prescriptions issued by Guam-based physicians to CNMI medical referral patients.

Youth Congress bill wants to lower age limit for getting driver's learner's permit

The CNMI Youth Congress recently passed a bill that seeks to change the driver's learner's permit age to 15 and the duration of the permit to one year.

Youth Congress Bill 18-08, authored by Youth Sen. Abriette Patience T. Manglona, proposes to amend the Commonwealth Code to change 16 years old to 15 years old instead to allow one to obtain a driver's learner's permit.

The bill also proposes to change the learner's permits' validity to one year instead of the current 60 days.

The legislation was transmitted to the House of Representatives.

Manglona stated in the bill that the current age of eligibility for driver's learner's permit is inadequate for a youth to fully understand the logics of driving as it is also the same age—16—for an individual to be eligible for a driver's license.

Manglona said if the individual has at least one year of preparation, that will adequately prepare them for the moment they are eligible to receive their license.

Along with giving youths a year to learn the ins and outs of driving, permitting them to learn how to drive from dawn to dusk will expose them to the real challenges of defen-

sive driving, knowing the right of way for cyclists and pedestrians, and being able to maintain composure from the start of their drive to their final destination.

A learner's permit is only valid for 60 days under current law. Manglona said 60 days is insufficient time for a 15-year-old to learn how to properly drive and learn all the rules of the road.

Manglona said more time is necessary to practice driving with an experienced licensed person and fosters more responsible operators in the CNMI, and in turn allow for safer commutes from village to village. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



WELCOME BACK!

U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD/MARK SCOTT

U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Celso Leonen, center, and Maj. Gen. Esther Aguigui, right, welcome students for a new school year at Starbase Guam at the Guam National Guard Barrigada Readiness Complex on Aug. 22. DoD Starbase is a supplementary educational program, sponsored by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, where students are challenged with a “hands-on, minds-on” approach to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

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US

From Page 1

posture against the growing North Korean nuclear threat.

The drills could draw an angry response from North Korea, which has dialed up its weapons testing activity to a record pace this year while repeatedly threatening conflicts with Seoul and Washington amid a prolonged stalemate in diplomacy.

The Ulchi Freedom Shield exercises will continue through Sept. 1 in South Korea and include field exercises involving aircraft, warships, tanks and potentially tens of thousands of troops.

While Washington and Seoul describe their exercises as defensive, North Korea portrays them as invasion rehearsals and has used them to justify its nuclear weapons and missiles development.

STAFF

From Page 1

ment's upper management.

The audit report noted the DOC commissioner's earlier statement that the department averages \$30,000 to \$50,000 in overtime costs per pay period. With the average Corrections officer logging in between 12.5 hours and 16 hours per day for a six-day work period, OPM said this results in 64 hours up to 106 hours of overtime per officer per pay period for 47 officers.

OPM director Frances Torres-Salas submitted the audit report last Aug. 1, 2022, to House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), with the hope that improved standards will be considered for law enforcement personnel across the board.

OPM completed its review of the DOC on Saipan for the period from November 2021 to July 2022.

Torres-Salas said the review was conducted for the purpose of determining whether DOC was providing services in an economical, efficient, and effective manner, whether goals and objectives were being achieved, and whether DOC was complying with applicable governmental and departmental policies and procedures.

OPM interviewed 85 out of 95 DOC personnel, which included both law enforcement officers and non-law enforcement personnel.

As OPM was conducting its interviews, it was discovered that DOC was experiencing a severe manpower shortage and staff burnout, largely due to the resignations of personnel seeking employment elsewhere due to their low wages. Additionally, some Corrections officers were charged for disciplinary issues, which caused some terminations.

The purpose of the audit report was to respond to the inquiries addressed to OPM by the House of Representatives.

According to the audit report, the DOC commissioner stated that due to the manpower shortage, it is necessary that all Corrections officers perform work overtime until such time that new recruits complete the Corrections Academy training.

Ulchi Freedom Shield, which started along with a four-day South Korean civil defense training program led by government employees, will reportedly include exercises simulating joint attacks, front-line reinforcements of arms and fuel, and removals of weapons of mass destruction.

The allies will also train for drone attacks and other new developments in warfare shown during Russia's war on Ukraine and practice joint military-civilian responses to attacks on seaports, airports and major industrial facilities such as semiconductor factories.

The United States and South Korea in past years had canceled some of their regular drills and downsized others to computer simulations to create space for the Trump administration's diplomacy with North Korea and because of COVID-19 concerns.

Tensions have grown since the collapse of the second meeting

OPM found out that the exhaustion is caused by working more than 16-hour shifts and at times having only one day or no days off.

OPM said this creates other issues with time and attendance.

In their findings, OPM said there are concerns of poor communication with management and inconsistent decision-making by upper management. OPM said the effects of poor communication at times cause tensions to rise, resulting in potential conflict among employees.

The report said there's lack of training for internal affairs personnel, lack of professional training for other Corrections officers, and there's unfair selection of officers to attend training.

There were also reports of unfair treatment of Corrections officers by management and lack of professionalism.

The report said there's lack of inmate programs during incarceration and after release.

DOC has maintained the same shift schedule for the past five months without rotating staff. OPM said this has created exhaustion.

OPM said Corrections officers are also not trained to deal with inmates or detainees who require psychiatric care. The report said no mental health training is offered to prepare Corrections officers for this type of environment.

The report found inmates not wearing the designated uniform while under the outreach program due to hot weather conditions. OPM said this poses a community safety concern in case of escape attempts.

OPM said Corrections officers also see inmates that are under the influence of illicit drugs once or twice a week.

OPM said there are three medical unit staff altogether who are Corrections officers; two have no medical background and one is only a certified emergency medical technician from prior work experience. OPM said Corrections officers who are not certified clinicians dispense medication to inmates, as prescribed by their physician.

The report found lack of a bio-hazard bin to dispose of used insulin syringes.

OPM said Corrections officers

also deal with disabled inmates and detainees that require special care and attention. OPM said Corrections officers also deal with other serious health conditions that actually require a certified clinician.

The report found that, in addition to the EMT-certified Corrections officers, the non-medically trained Medical Unit staff and Corrections officers on shift provide clinical care to inmates and detainees, as necessary. This, OPM said, includes daily insulin shots, along with checking blood pressure.

OPM recommends, among other things, to establish a baseline communication standard and set expectations for improvement. OPM said there should be more professional training related to their work as Corrections officers, such as EMT training to all officers dealing with inmates and detainees.

OPM said DOC should enforce uniform policies for the outreach program inmates and provide a lighter material so they are able to perform their work comfortably.

OPM said DOC should provide constant training to help Corrections officers deal with mental health issues.

The report recommends to spot check all areas of the DOC facility using a certified K-9 dog with a certified K-9 dog handler.

The report said DOC should hire at least two to three certified or licensed nurses to provide 24-hour care for inmates needing medical attention on-site to assist with a disability or require special attention.

OPM recommends DOC to rotate Corrections officers each month to ensure that all officers are exposed to and are familiar with the different operations.

OPM recommends that DOC also improve communication between the management team and upper management.

To ease DOC's manpower shortage, it is currently holding a Corrections Academy consisting of 39 cadets. The graduation is in early October 2022.

The Budget Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (CNMI Public Law 22-08) mandates OPM to conduct a desk audit of DOC and the Department of Public Safety.

Korean threat.

Before being shelved or downsized, the United States and South Korea held major joint exercises every spring and summer in South Korea.

The spring drills had included live-fire drills involving a broad range of land, air and sea assets and usually involved around 10,000 American and 200,000 Korean troops. Tens of thousands of allied troops participated in the summertime drills, which mainly consisted of computer simulations to hone joint decision-making and planning, although South Korea's military has emphasized the revival of field training this year.

The drills follow North Korea's dismissal last week of South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol's "audacious" proposal of economic benefits in exchange for denuclearization steps, accusing Seoul of recycling proposals Pyongyang has long rejected.

Kim Yo Jong, the increasingly powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, described Yoon's proposal as foolish and stressed that the North has no intentions to give away an arsenal her brother clearly sees as his strongest guarantee of survival.

She harshly criticized Yoon for continuing military exercises with the United States and also for letting South Korean civilian activists fly anti-Pyongyang propaganda leaflets and other "dirty waste" across the border by balloon.

CEC

From Page 1

Sablan, a Republican, is seeking his sixth term as a member of the House of Representatives representing Precinct 2, under a unified independent team.

Flores is running for a House Precinct 3 seat, also under the unified independent team.

Ada is running for a House Precinct 2 seat under the Republican Party. It was he who asked the CEC to investigate the residency of Sablan and Flores, who is Ada's former wife.

Maratita is running for a Senate Rota seat as an independent.

Barcinas and Ogo are seeking election for a House Rota seat as independent candidates.

Mendiola, who is the special assistant for Department of Homeland Security, is running for a Senate Rota seat under the Republican Party.

The CEC did not indicate who challenged the residency of candidates Ada, Maratita, Ogo, and Mendiola.

This developed as CEC board chair Jesus I. Sablan placed under advisement Alfredo T. Taimanao's appeal of the CEC's challenge to his candidacy. Taimanao is running for mayor of Rota as an independent.

Taimanao, who appeared at yesterday's hearing without a lawyer, explained to the board about his residency on Rota. He later allowed his wife, as his witness, to speak before the board.

Taimanao provided some documents, including Commonwealth Utilities Corp. billings, to prove his residency on Rota.

She also ridiculed U.S.-South Korean military capabilities for monitoring the North's missile activity, insisting that the South misread the launch site of the North's latest missile tests on Wednesday last week, hours before Yoon used a news conference to urge Pyongyang to return to diplomacy.

Kim Yo Jong's statement came a week after she warned of "deadly" retaliation against South Korea over a recent North Korean COVID-19 outbreak, which Pyongyang dubiously claims was caused by leaflets and other objects floated by southern activists. There are concerns that the threat portends a provocation which might include a nuclear or missile test or even border skirmishes, and that the North might try to raise tensions sometime around the allied drills.

In an interview with Associated Press Television last month, Choe Jin, deputy director of a think tank run by North Korea's Foreign Ministry, said the United States and South Korea would face "unprecedented" security challenges if they don't drop their hostile military pressure campaign against North Korea, including joint military drills.

Last week's launches of two suspected cruise missiles extended a record pace in North Korean missile testing in 2022, which has involved more than 30 ballistic launches, including the country's first demonstrations of intercontinental ballistic missiles in nearly five years.

Meanwhile, Edwin Raymond Quitugua, whose candidacy for a seat in the Saipan Municipal Council is being challenged by the CEC for failing to meet residency requirement to run for public office, failed to show up for his scheduled hearing before the CEC board yesterday.

Igitol informed the board that Quitugua called that morning that he would not be able to appear as he's actually been admitted to the hospital. Igitol said Quitugua requested for an extension of the hearing.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the CEC's conference room yesterday before noon, the commissioners were holding an executive session on Quitugua's case at the suggestion of deputy attorney general Lillian Ada Tenorio, who served as counsel for Igitol at the hearing.

Assistant attorney general Carl Dela Cruz served as the board's counsel at the hearing/meeting.

In a later interview, Igitol said the CEC is challenging only the candidacies of Taimanao and Quitugua.

With respect to Sablan, Flores, Ada, Maratita, Barcinas, Ogo, and Mendiola, Igitol said the CEC did not challenge their candidacies, but only looked into the challenge letters submitted by some persons who questioned their residency.

Igitol said they examined the documents that the seven candidates provided them pertaining to their respective residency and found them meeting the residency requirement to be eligible to run.

"So after reviewing those documents, I recommended to the board that they be certified," she said.

As of yesterday, the board has yet to act on Igitol's recommendations.

Webinar shows how to apply for Public Service Loan Forgiveness program

The Office of the Attorney General would like the community to know of an upcoming webinar regarding the Public Service Loan Forgiveness

Program. This program allows qualifying federal student loans to be forgiven after 120 qual-

ifying payments while working for a qualifying public service employer.

If you are employed by a

U.S. federal, state, local, or tribal government or not-for-profit organization, you may be eligible for this program. There is also a limited PSLF waiver that allows borrowers with older loans to apply for forgiveness as well.

The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Federal Student Aid will be hosting a webinar entitled "A Guide to Submit the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Form," on Thursday, Aug. 25, 2022, from

11am to 12pm (Chamorro Standard Time). This webinar is intended for students, parents, and federal student loan borrowers. The webinar will include information about the PSLF program, the limited PSLF waiver, the PSLF help tool, additional resources to help navigate the process, and there will also be an opportunity to ask questions.

Attorney General Edward Manibusan encourages the community to participate as

this webinar presents an opportunity to learn more about the application process. Many of you may be eligible, but are unaware of this expanded opportunity to participate. This is a limited opportunity and time is of the essence to apply, so you are encouraged register now.

If you are interested in attending this webinar, you can register at <https://web.event.com/event/a9fafa-fc-6a84-4c1c-8336-3122c08f81ce/> summary. (PR)

US congressional delegation meet with PH President



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The U.S. congressional delegation meets with recently inaugurated President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr. of the Philippines.

American Samoa Delegate Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen was part of the first U.S. congressional delegation to meet with recently inaugurated President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr. of the Philippines.

The group of five lawmakers, led by Sen. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations East Asia, Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Subcommittee, also included Rep. John Garamendi (CA-03), Rep. Don Beyer (VA-08), and Rep. Alan Lowenthal (CA-47). The group concluded their Asia congressional delegation travel this week in the Philippines.

"It was a pleasure to be a part of the first U.S. congressional delegation to meet with President Marcos in the Philippines, affirming our nations' shared interests, and conveying the best wishes of American Samoa's Filipino community," said Amata. "It is especially meaningful to take part in multiple efforts to stress U.S. support for a free press, human rights, and the need to reject politically motivated imprisonment, as a new commitment to these principles would strengthen the U.S.-Philippines alliance as our nations work together for security in the region."

During their visit, the delegation met with the U.S. Embassy deputy chief of mission Heather Variava and other U.S. Embassy personnel to discuss United States-Philippines relations. The group also met with U.S. director of the Asian Development Bank Chantale Wong to discuss the bank's work in the region.

On Thursday, the delegation became the first U.S. congressional delegation to meet with Marcos since he assumed office on June 30 this year. During this meeting, the delegation reaffirmed the importance of the relationship between the two

countries and discussed regional security challenges. They discussed ways to support the Philippines efforts to turn to more renewable energy. The delegation raised concerns regarding the human rights record under the previous government of the Philippines and expressed their hope that Marcos would set a new tone for the importance of human rights and freedom of the press.

Later, the delegation met with participants in the Aling Tindera network, which receives funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development's Clean Cities, Blue Ocean initiative. This effort provides a funding stream for local women-owned stores that serve as collection points for post-consumer plastic waste.

The delegation met with the

Secretary of Foreign Affairs Enrique Manalo and Secretary of Justice Jesus Crispin Remulla. During these meetings, the delegation discussed cooperation on renewable energy, U.S. support for human rights, press freedom, and LGBTQIA+ rights, and regional security issues, including the South China Sea.

On Friday, the delegation concluded their travel by visiting with former senator Leila de Lima, who remains imprisoned on politically motivated charges.

The United States and the Philippines have historical ties, and Amata was pleased to support the Congressional Gold Medal in 2017 for Filipino veterans of World War II, as the U.S. officially honored these important contributions to the cause of freedom. (PR)

NMI Judiciary mourns passing of Chief Justice Repeat R. Samuel of the Chuuk Supreme Court

The NMI Judiciary issued the following statement yesterday in the wake of the passing of Chief Justice Repeat R. Samuel of the Chuuk State Supreme Court.

"It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Chief Justice of the Chuuk State Supreme Court, Repeat R. Samuel. On behalf of the Northern Mariana Islands Judiciary, we express our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and the people of the State of Chuuk and the Federated States of Micronesia.

"Over the last two and a half years Chief Justice Sam-

uel successfully navigated the unprecedented challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. He was able to adapt the practices of the Chuuk State Judiciary and transition judicial proceedings to a virtual setting to ensure access to justice remained open to all. Chief Justice Samuel accomplished all of this while the Chuuk State Judiciary was also mourning the untimely passing of Chief Justice Camillo Noket in May of 2020.

"Chief Justice Samuel's dedication to the people of Chuuk began as a trial counselor at Micronesian Legal Services Corp. and in vari-

ous positions at the Department of Public Safety. He also served as a pastor at his church in Wichap, Weno. His ascension to the bench made significant progress to the Chuuk State Judiciary and increased access to justice. In his role as chief justice, he was also a member of the Pacific Judicial Council, assisting in the delivery of judicial education and training in the region. We should all aspire to lead a life that benefits our community the way that Chief Justice Samuel contributed to his.

"Once again, our sympathies go out to all those affected by his passing." (PR)



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA) CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Email Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE OF OPEN PUBLIC AUCTIONS - SURPLUS EQUIPMENT & MATERIALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is inviting all individuals, firms, and recycling centers to three open public auctions of CPA's surplus equipment and materials. The list of surplus equipment and materials is available beginning August 5, 2022 for pick-up at the CPA Office of the Executive Director, which is located at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Building, 2nd floor, or via email upon request.

Item Inspection: All items will be available for inspection beginning August 15, 2022 to August 26, 2022, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, business days only. Items located on Saipan may be inspected by contacting Mr. Dennis Cruz at telephone number (670) 237-6596 or (670) 483-4516. Items located on Rota may be inspected by contacting Mr. Albert Toves at telephone number (670) 285-8109 or (670) 532-9497. Items located on Tinian may be inspected by contacting Mr. Gerald Crisostomo at telephone number (670) 433-9294.

Auction Locations, Dates, and Times: The auctions will take place at the following locations, dates and times:

Saipan: CPA Maintenance Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on September 1, 2022, beginning at 10:00 AM.

Rota: CPA Maintenance Building, Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport on September 6, 2022, beginning at 10:30 AM.

Tinian: CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport on September 9, 2022, beginning at 10:00 AM.

Terms and Conditions: All bidders submitting the highest itemized bid are required to pay 20% down payment on acceptance of bid. Balance shall be payable at CPA's Accounting Office located on the 2nd Floor of the Departure Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, within five (5) business days from the date of the Public Auction. Failure to pay will result in the forfeiture of the down payment. Payment must be made in cash, cashier's check, credit card, or money order made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All items are sold "AS IS" and "WHERE IS" and without warranty, guaranty, or representation of any kind, expressed or implied, as to the merchantability or fitness for any purpose of the property offered for sale. Items offered for sale are used and may contain defects not immediately detectable.

All sold properties must be removed from CPA property within five (5) calendar days from date of payment, at owner's expense. CPA will not be responsible for said property after said specified time. The Buyer will make all arrangements and perform all work necessary, including packing, loading, and transportation of the property. No assistance will be provided. Upon removal of the property, all sales are final.

Any claim for misdescription of the purchased item must be made prior to removal of the property. If CPA confirms that the property does not conform to the description, CPA will keep the property and refund any money paid. The liability of CPA shall not exceed the actual purchase price of the property.

CPA reserves the right to reject any and all bids submitted for any reason set forth in this Public Auction Notice or as set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations, including bid rejection or cancellation prior to and at the Public Auction.

CPA assumes no liability for any costs incurred by bidders in their preparation of the bids. Inquiries may be directed to the CPA Comptroller, Skye Hofschneider, via email at skye.hofschneider@cnmiports.com.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
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Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 | Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: <https://cnmiports.com>

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 05-2022

Opening date: August 15, 2022

Location: SAIPAN

Positions: (1) ARFF General Maintenance
(1) ARFF Mechanic II
(1) ARFF Mechanic III

Closing date: September 02, 2022

SALARY

PL 3/1 to 3/12 (\$8.01/hr. to \$13.70/hr.)
PL 6/1 to 6/12 (\$9.27/hr. to \$15.85/hr.)
PL 12/1 to 12/12 (\$12.42/hr. to \$21.25/hr.)

Location: TINIAN

Positions: (2) General Maintenance I

SALARY

PL 2/1 to 2/12 (\$7.63/hr. to \$13.04/hr.)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 111-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport**. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than 5:00 P.M. on Friday, September 02, 2022.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Micronesia's first COVID-19 outbreak balloons, causing alarm

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Micronesia's first outbreak of COVID-19 grew

in one week to more than 1,000 cases by Tuesday last week, causing alarm in the Pa-

cific island nation.

Micronesia likely became the final nation in the world

with a population of more than 100,000 to experience an outbreak of the disease, af-

ter avoiding it for 2 1/2 years thanks to its geographic isolation and border controls.

Health officials said cases were rapidly increasing. It reported 140 new cases Monday, bringing the total to 1,261, a figure which includes some cases caught at the border before the outbreak.

Eight people have been hospitalized and one older man has died, officials said.

Many top lawmakers and senior officials have caught the disease, including Vice President Yosiwo George, who has since died.

Camille Movick, whose family owns Fusion Restaurant in Pohnpei State, told The Associated Press that a lot of people have been posting on Facebook asking, for instance, that others stay away from their homes.

"Initially there was quite a bit of panic and worry with most people," she said.

She said her restaurant remained open although business was slow because many people were afraid to dine in. She said some other restaurants had closed their dining rooms and were only offering takeaway services.

Movick said authorities had issued a directive that all people must wear masks in pub-

lic—even outdoors—and that they faced fines of \$1,000 for noncompliance.

She said one positive outcome was the outbreak had prompted many previously unvaccinated people to get their shots.

She said many people suspected the virus might have been circulating before the first community case was confirmed last week because health authorities weren't routinely testing patients for the disease.

Last year, Micronesia became one of the few countries to impose a broad mandate requiring all eligible citizens get vaccinated against the coronavirus.

The government threatened to withhold federal funds from any individuals or business owners who didn't follow the rules. Health officials said this week that 75% of people aged 5 and over were fully vaccinated.

Movick said many parts of society were continuing to function as before, including many people who were working from their offices.

"We're hoping things get back to normal soon," Movick said. "Just like in other countries, over time, they've gotten over it, and lifted the restrictions."

Residence Lodge is latest ProaPerks partner

Residence Lodge is the latest company to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks Partner, joining many other businesses and organizations. All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now receive a 5% discount on rental fees.

Located on Alaihai Ave. in Garapan, Residence Lodge provides accommodation with free WiFi and free private parking. Featuring room service, this property also provides guests with a sun terrace.

Residence Lodge joins the growing list of ProaPerks partners, such as 153 Restaurant, 360 Restaurant, 4EVER CNMI, Alamo Car Rental, AllStar Sporting Goods, Aqua Connections, Inc., AQUASMITH, Athlete's Foot, Avis Rent A Car, BAB Korean Restaurant Cup Bab, Bistro Marianas, Chagi Norf Kitchen, Boarderline, Bolis R US 2, Candle J, Caravan of Food, Casa Decor, Casa Urashima, Chelu Alynez Enterprise, Chungi Wa Korean Restaurant, Clear Water Place, Clear Water Residence, Clear Water Villa, Coral Garden Hotel, Cosmos Lounge, D' Chef's Kitchen, Docomo Pacific, Dollar Days, Enterprise Car Rental, Ete Cafe, Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods,



Residence Lodge in Garapan is now a proud NMC ProaPerks partner. More information about their special promotion for ProaPerks card holders can be found at marianas.edu/proaperks. **NMC**

Fork and Spoon, Furusato Restaurant, Garapan Restaurant Cafe & Grill, Gold's Gym, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Great Harvest, Boyer Trading Company LLC, dba Ginen Saipan, Hardt Eye Clinic, Inc., Healing Stones Spa, Highway Express Auto Care Center, Herman's Modern Bakery, Inc., Hertz Rental Car, Hyatt, Hotel Americano, Ina's Kitchen, International Roller Skates, Isla Shave Ice, Islander Rent A Car, Java Joe's, JC Cafe, Jhen's Sweet Corner Cakes, Judy's Cafe & Restaurant, Junlyn Salon, Kentucky Fried Chicken/Taco Bell, Kiki's, Korea House Restaurant, Latte Built

Gym, Lohas Massage, Lohas Nails, Lucky Store, Lucky II Mart, Magbers Snack Bar, Majesty Restaurant, Mama D's Cafe, Mariana Light-house, Marianas Creation, MMC & Pacific Labs, LLC, Megabyte, Mermaid Restaurant & Milk tea, Nam Dae Moon, National Car Rental, Natural Nail & Spa, Neni Girl Nails, NMC Bookstore, Ocean Star Restaurant, Pacific Home Appliances, Paradise Dental Spa, Pizzeria Bar & Grill, Pokiyaki, Residence Lodge, Saipan Computer Services, Salt & Barber Salon, Shirley's Cafe, Salty's, Stay Cafe, Summer Snow Cafe & Kids Corner cafe, Summit

Auto Repair Shop, Surf Club, Residence Lodge, Tempura's Best Restaurant, The Ohala Foundation Clothing, The Pacific Supply, The Shack, Time Creation Corp., Tinian Diamond Hotel, Tom Yum Restaurant, Tribe Marianas, and Triple J Motors.

Companies and other interested organizations who would like to become part of the ProaPerks program and take advantage of the buying power of thousands of individuals that include NMC alumni, students, and employees, can find more information by emailing proaperks@marianas.edu. **(NMC)**

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Water service interruption on Thursday in Fina Sisu

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on Thursday, Aug. 25, 2022, from 8am to 4pm for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in portions of Fina Sisu (between Penka Place and Patma Place along Tun Antonio Apa Road). Customers in the affected areas will experience low water pressure to no water during the outage period.

The scheduled water service interruption is to allow CUC's contractor for the Fina Sisu Waterline Replacement Project to relocate a fire hydrant located along Tun Antonio Apa Road in Fina Sisu. Customers should expect normal water service soon after the relocation of the hydrant.

This project is part of the Fina Sisu Waterline Replacement Project funded by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to provide a more reliable water system. The transition work is in part of the decommissioning of the old waterline to eliminate risks of contamination and frequent line breaks.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page

for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesComoration/>). **(PR)**

NMPASI closed on Friday

This is to inform the public that the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. will be closed this Friday, Aug. 26, 2022, from 8am to 5pm for a staff Professional Development. Normal office hours will resume on Monday, Aug. 29, 2022. **(PR)**

Guam PTAC offers free webinar

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering a free webinar on Thursday, Aug. 25, 2022, on Teaming and Joint Ventures. *What are they and which is right for your business? The Guam PTAC will discuss the federal regulations related to these arrangements and discuss ways to use these arrangements effectively.*

The webinar will run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar. To register, visit: <https://www.guamptac.com/news-and-events.php>. **(PR)**

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) Board of Directors hereby gives notice that a special meeting is being called on Thursday, August 25, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. in the CPA Conference Room located on the second floor of the Captain George Fleming Building at the Port of Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
(May 16 and July 28, 2022)

II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

III. SPECIAL MEETING ITEMS:

1. Supplemental Budget Request: Rota Airport Drainage Improvements
2. Internal Auditor Contract
3. Echo Dock
 - a. Scope of Concession
 - b. Determination of Procurement Method
 - c. Evaluation Method
4. Lease Escalation Rate
5. Fiscal Year 2023 Budget
6. CPA Environmental Policy

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION (if needed)

V. MISCELLANEOUS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit may be imposed.

KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS
Chairwoman, Board of Directors

August 22, 2022



CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES CNMI GOVERNMENT



INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB22-BECQ-DEQ-42200145

SUBMISSION DATE: September 08, 2022 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "F" PICKUP TRUCK, DOUBLE CAB, FOR BECQ/DEQ"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE HORIGUCHI BLDG, GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MRS. GLORIA S. CASTRO, VIA E-MAIL AT gloria.castro@becq.gov.mp

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

US Coast Guard, CNMI partners to hold exercise on Saipan

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Coast Guard and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands partners will conduct a search and rescue exercise on Saipan today and

Wednesday, Aug. 23 - 24.

Invited agencies include the Department of Public Safety, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Division of Environmental Quality - Bureau

of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Homeland Security and Emergency management, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Commonwealth Port Author-

ity, Customs and Biosecurity, and other local officials and representatives.

This year's SAREX will entail a coordinated response to a simulated capsized kayak off

Tanapag Harbor. Participants will conduct training and search patterns offshore. Waterway users are requested to stay clear of the boating area involved during the exercise, designated by the presence of the kayak, boats, and other assets.

The exercise will last two days, including planning, safety, and communication meetings in a Tuesday tabletop portion with an open water phase to occur on Wednesday in the harbor.

Assets involved in this year's SAREX are anticipated to be:

■ Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam Joint Sub-Center Center and response personnel

■ Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment Saipan

personnel

■ CNMI partner boat crews Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam holds SAREXs in Guam, the CNMI, and the Compact of Free Association states. They evaluate notification and response procedures and identify shortfalls in communication and coordination of response during SAR incidents. Each agency holds individual capabilities that complement each other's efforts and bolsters the overall success of the SAR system.

The public should remain vigilant and call 911 to report any possible distress situations but be mindful of the Wednesday on-water activity. Emergency response capabilities will not be compromised by the exercise. (USCG)



The USCGC *Oliver Henry* (WPC 1140) crew, including ship riders from Papua New Guinea, the U.S. Marine Corps, and the U.S. Navy, take a moment for a photo aboard the ship off Manus, Papua New Guinea, Aug. 14, 2022.

U.S. COAST GUARD/USCGC OLIVER HENRY

USCG participating in Operation Island Chief, Operation Blue Pacific 2022

MANUS, Papua New Guinea—The U.S. Coast Guard is participating with partners to support the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency-led Operation Island Chief and the larger Operation Blue Pacific through patrols in the Western Pacific in August and September 2022.

"Employing our unique authorities, capabilities, and access within Oceania is a privilege. We are eager to further integrate with our Allies and regional partners to protect national interests and combat illicit maritime activity such as illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing," said Capt. Nick Simmons, U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam commander. "Strengthening governance and modeling professional maritime behavior on the high seas and the surrounding waters is one way to counter predatory activity and reinforce the Pacific as a positive center of gravity and sustainable economy."

The operation covers a substantial area of the Pacific on the high seas and the exclusive economic zones of the Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Australia, and the Solomon Islands, while renewing relationships bolstered by local knowledge and expertise.

The USCGC *Oliver Henry* (WPC 1140), a 154-foot Sentinel-class fast response cutter, and crew deployed from Guam, are making their first port call of the patrol in Manus, Papua New Guinea. During the patrol, the cutter

will also have aerial support from a forward deployed HC-130 Hercules airplane crew from U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point and New Zealand Defence Force P3 Orion airplane crew. Where possible, the crew will also conduct subject matter expert exchanges and engagements.

Operation Island Chief is one of four operations conducted annually under FFA. It includes the Pacific waters of 11 participating FFA member nations—Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Nauru, the Marshall Islands, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

"The *Oliver Henry* crew are committed to regional collaboration and sharing best practices to strengthen our relationships and information sharing," said Lt. Freddy Hofschneider, commanding officer of *Oliver Henry*. "The U.S. Coast Guard has been a dedicated partner in the region for decades. We appreciate the support of our colleagues as we take this ship across vast distances in this region, making some transits and port calls for the first time."

A significant emphasis of the operation for the U.S. Coast Guard is the ongoing emphasis on fisheries and resource protection.

"The Pacific Ocean is home to some of the world's most abundant fisheries," said Simmons. "These fisheries are living marine resources, part of the global food chain, representing food

security and an economic engine for many of the Pacific island nations. By leveraging our cutters, aircraft, and intelligence professionals, the U.S. Coast Guard continues our strong partnership with the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency and its members to protect this vital marine ecosystem and ensure continued economic prosperity and a thriving ocean for future generations."

According to FFA, partners are seeing increasing success through multilateral operations in the Pacific to tackle IUUF. These operations evolved from a focus on protecting against illegal boats entering the fisheries to policing the operations of licensed vessels that haven't followed the rules and regulations governing their activities. The Pacific region is a vast expanse, and collaboration across the many partners, providing personnel and assets, is crucial to ongoing success.

The *Oliver Henry* is the 40th Sentinel-class fast response cutter. The ship arrived in Guam and was commissioned along with its sister ships, *Myrtle Hazard* and *Frederick Hatch*, in July 2021. In the time since, the crew has participated in several search and rescues cases, completed a counternarcotics patrol off Guam with the Japan Coast Guard patrol vessel *Mizuho*, and conducted sovereignty and fisheries patrols in the Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam area of responsibility. (USCG)



Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office

Guma' Hustisia / Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 • Saipan, MP 96950

Telephone (670) 236-9700/9800 • Facsimile: (670) 236-9702 • Website: www.NMIJudiciary.gov

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DRUG COURT PROJECT ASSISTANT

Re-Announcement #JVA22-036

SAIPAN

DUTIES: This position is under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge of the Commonwealth Superior Court and direct supervision of the Drug Court Manager or his/her designee. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Assists the Drug Court Manager in the daily operations of the Drug Court Division;
- Assists in the preparation of administrative reports to the Judicial Council, Supreme Court, the Criminal Justice Planning Agency, the Presiding Judge and the Chief Justice;
- Updates and advises Grants Manager on expenditure of federal funds for assigned grant projects;
- Processes purchase requisitions and purchase orders and updates vendor files;
- Enters, verifies for accuracy, updates and retrieves computer data; prepares spreadsheets;
- Posts journal entries and budget amendments;
- Assists in maintaining financial records for assigned grant projects;
- Conducts routine self-audits by examining, verifying, and reviewing financial records and makes corrections as necessary;
- Ensures program compliance with all applicable Judiciary policies and procedures, state and federal laws and regulations, and standards of quality
- and safety; provides guidance on policies, procedures, laws and regulations for staff as necessary;
- Establish procedures for the collection of appropriate data and set up records to assure compliance of all regulations to include, but not be limited to, periodic reports;
- Establishes and ensures the maintenance of accurate and complete Drug Court participant records and transmits data to appropriate Drug Court team members;
- Monitors program effectiveness and efficiency, and makes recommendations for improvements as necessary to enhance services, achieve goals and ensure compliance;
- Reads, and applies complex policies and laws governing federal programs;
- Interacts regularly with Drug Court stakeholders and assists with grants project implementation;
- Develops positive relationships and maintain high levels of communication with stakeholders and the Drug Court Manager;
- Assists with the collection of all required documentation on a timely basis, including attendance, staff training, federal data, invoices, and surveys.
- Maintain and track monthly budget in coordination with the Grants Manager, Finance Director, and Drug Court Manager;
- Assists the Drug Court Manager in monitoring program requirements;
- Be fully familiar with the BJA grant including goals and objectives, and all program requirements;
- Participate in all meetings, workshops, and activities organized by the Drug Court Manager;
- Coordinate evaluation process including any surveys of participants and staff;
- Compiles data for and prepares records and reports as required by the division and/or other agencies;
- Performs general administrative work as required, including but not limited to entering and retrieving computer data, preparing reports and correspondence, copying and filing documents, sending and receiving faxes and e-mails, answering the telephone, ordering supplies;
- Attends meetings, training, workshops and conferences as appropriate to enhance job knowledge and skills;
- Process travel requests for professional development paid through federal funds;
- Assists with training travel authorizations for Drug Court staff and Drug Court Team.
- Maintains records of equipment paid for by federal funds under the supervision of Grants Management;
- Assists the Project Director with quarterly reports via JustGrants and the BJA PMT;
- Perform other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: The Drug Court Project Assistant must have an Associate's Degree or equivalent, plus four (4) years of experience in grants management, client services, data collection or similar field.

Must have the ability to maintain and control sensitive and confidential information, maintain records professionally, and uphold office policies. Must be proficient with the use of general office software including but not limited to Microsoft Word and Excel.

Candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Must have a valid drivers' license and operate a court vehicle. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment. "Illegal drug" means a substance whose use or possession is controlled by federal law but that is not being used or possessed under the supervision of a licensed health care professional. (Controlled substances are listed in Schedules I-V of 21 C.F.R. Part 1308.)

Education completed in foreign colleges or universities may be used to meet the job qualification requirements if the applicant can show that foreign education is comparable to education received in accredited educational institutions in the United States.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide such evidence when applying for Judiciary jobs. Education received in foreign colleges or universities will be considered if the candidate submits an evaluation of the coursework from: (a) an accredited U.S. college or university; or (b) a private professional organization specializing in interpretation of foreign educational credentials.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position serves under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge. The salary range will be \$30,000-\$35,000 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS Application forms are available at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices at Kotten Tinian in Tinian and Centron Hustisia in Rota during normal business hours except on weekends and holidays. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

NMI Judiciary
Human Resources
Guma' Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 236-9818 I Cell. (670) 783-8592 I Fax. (670) 236-9702
hr.judiciary@NMJudiciary.com

This job announcement will remain open until filled and can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.nmijudiciary.gov>

The Judiciary reserves the right to rescind or cancel this JVA at any time without notice.

The following organizations evaluate foreign educational credentials for employment and other purposes. All operate on a fee based on the extent of the education to be evaluated; applicants shall bear the cost of evaluation.
(a) Credentials Evaluation Service P.O. Box 24679 Los Angeles, CA 90024
(b) Education Equivalency Evaluation World Education Services P.O. Box 745 Old Chelsea Station New York, NY 10011
(c) Education Credential Evaluators, Inc. P.O. Box 17499 Milwaukee, WI 53217
(d) International Consultants of Delaware, Inc. 914 Pickett Lane Newark, DE 19711
(e) Foundation for International Services, Inc. P.O. Box 230278 Portland, OR 97223. While the Judiciary offer these addresses as information to applicants who request assistance in obtaining an evaluation of foreign education, these services are not preferred over others which may exist. While the Judiciary offer these addresses as information to applicants who request assistance in obtaining an evaluation of foreign education, these services are not preferred over others which may exist.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 167

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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EDITORIAL

An attack on Rushdie—and free society

In 1989, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, then the supreme leader of Iran, issued a fatwa that called for the killing of author Salman Rushdie for his portrayal of Islam and the Prophet Muhammad in his novel “The Satanic Verses.”

Not recognizing the irony, in just that decree alone Iran’s top cleric did more to defile his religion than Rushdie’s writings could ever do.

That seems especially apparent after Friday’s heinous attack on Rushdie at a literary conference in upstate New York. A 24-year-old New Jersey man who hadn’t even been born when Khomeini issued the fatwa was arrested, later entering a not-guilty plea on charges of attempted murder and assault. Authorities have yet to provide a motive.

Gravely injured, Rushdie was initially put on a ventilator. While he’s expected to recover, he may tragically lose an eye.

Rushdie’s clarity on the extremism that is tightening its grip worldwide is likely unaffected. That scourge was evident again when “Harry Potter” author J.K. Rowling was warned, “Don’t worry you are next,” on Twitter after she rallied behind Rushdie. While Scotland Yard is investigating that threat, others may be targeted, too, as they decry the attack and the atmosphere that may have triggered it.

But ideally, the rejection of theocracy’s fanaticism will be so widespread that the intolerance can’t be directed at just one individual as institutions, government and civilized society at large speak up for the right of free expression.

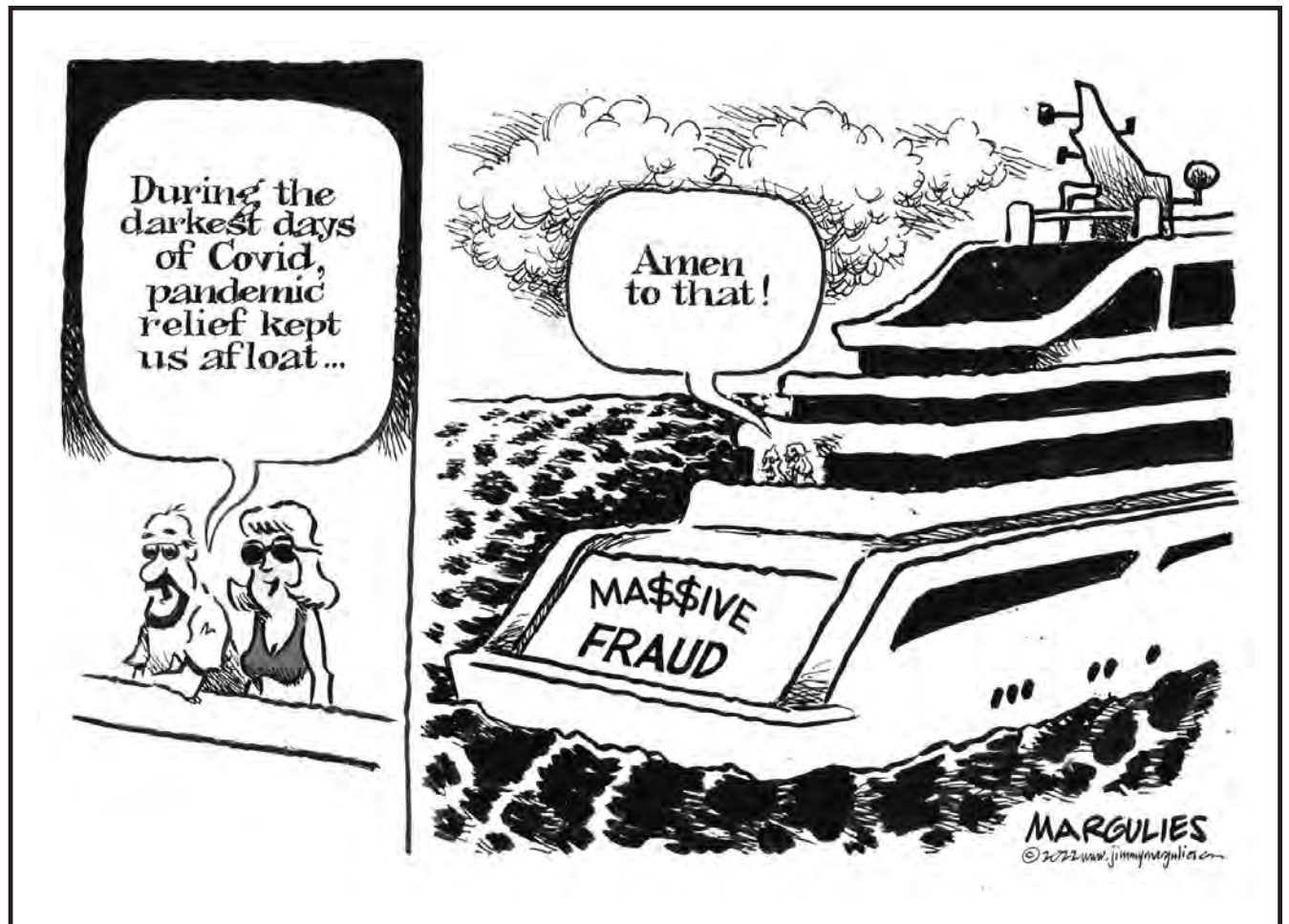
Those groups include PEN America, the U.S. chapter of the 100-plus PEN International organization dedicated to freedom of expression. Writing in *The Guardian*, current PEN CEO Suzanne Nossel said that just hours before he was attacked Rushdie e-mailed her to help secure safe refuge for Ukrainian writers imperiled by Russia’s brutal invasion.

Rushdie, a past president of PEN America, “has been an unflagging, unflappable presence in the public arena, devoted to defending the written word, telling his stories and standing with others who are vulnerable and menaced,” Nossel wrote.

The attack comes in the context of “intensifying and protean attacks on free expression worldwide,” Nossel said, with prompted PEN America to take “the unprecedented step of convening an Emergency World Voices Congress of Writers this year—the first such gathering since 1939 when our leading intellectuals convened to grapple with the dangers of rising fascism.”

Indeed, Tehran is not alone in capitalizing on a global rise of intolerance. According to Reporters Without Borders, Kabul has lost nearly 40% of its media outlets and 60% of its journalists since the Taliban took control of Afghanistan. Similar situations are playing out globally, especially in consequential capitals like Moscow and Beijing, where Orwellian autocracies quash free expression and, ultimately, freedom.

See RUSHDIE on Next Page



A left-leaning 66-year-old searches for balance in unbalanced times

In the Orwellian universe in which we now marinate, that uncomfortable reality in which rumors seamlessly transform into facts, and disinformation invades our bloodstream like a mutant virus, I wonder what the proper balance is while cowering under the bed and wearing a helmet, face mask and noise-cancelling headphones.

These last 18 months of America held spellbound under the everlasting stench of the Jan. 6 coup attempt and Donald Trump’s continuing odorous reign of dysfunction have been difficult to manage emotionally, even with a daily dose of 100 milligrams of Zoloft (up from 50 milligrams a year ago), an occasional chaser of Xanax and an uptick in cheap chardonnay.

The endless tweets, the 24/7 news circus with its countless cable TV “experts,” the GOP and its ringleader Tucker Carlson, have infiltrated every corner of my real and virtual worlds.

So what is my obligation as a left-leaning 66-year-old with high blood pressure (150/90, thanks for not asking) who was raised to be politically involved and duly outraged at any sign of social injustice?

With my remaining years quickly sliding into amnesia, did I really need to watch Trump’s recent speech at the Conservative Political Action Conference? Did I need to waste time stalking Lauren Boebert’s latest Twitter babble? Did I have to find out that MyPillow CEO Mike Lindell is holding a “Moment of Truth Summit” later this month in which the 2020 voting machines will be the defendants in a “trial of the machines”?

“The only way this doesn’t work — I have all the pieces — is if the people don’t watch it,” Lindell boasted. Who did he reveal this bit of breaking news to? Why none other than the great rumbled one, Steve Bannon. Am I the only one with IBS, Irritable Bannan Syndrome?

I was raised under that false American rubric that “one person can make a difference.” By using our infectious Yankee optimism, we can change the course of history, stop the tanks in Tiananmen Square (How did that work out?), give peace a chance (Miss you, John) and stop U.S. Sen. Kyrsten Sinema from pretending that wearing floral drapes is cutting-edge fashion.

I have always thought that maxim should read, “One incredibly exceptional person with the right connections and gorgeous hair can make a difference.”

I’ll be brutally honest: I am not that incredibly exceptional. I do not like confrontations with people who disagree with me. It’s kind of icky. I have really nice hair, some would call it flaxen, but I lack any connection that would even let me cut ahead in the “20 items or less” line at Wal-Mart.

I vote regularly. I occasionally turn up at a protest — mainly

By **STEPHEN J. LYONS**

Chicago Tribune

Stephen J. Lyons is the author of five books of essays and journalism. His forthcoming book, *Searching for A Way Home: Misadventures with Misanthropes and Family*, will be published next summer by Finishing Line Press.



for the smug selfies — and then reward myself with one of those \$5 Starbucks drinks. I sign online petitions; write unanswered letters to Congress; and retweet, “like” and insult online, but do I have the same power to effect change in the United States as say, Kid Rock, U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin or a TikTok influencer?

To my liberal comrades, I would caution, just because you are upset, dutifully read New York Times or Washington Post editorials and drink organic fair-trade French roast does not mean you are a better person than those who, instead, do not want to pour all that anxiety into their short lives and would rather drink beer on the patio, binge-watch “Emily in Paris” or pet a cat.

Back to the question of balance. Lately, I’ve been taking the long view. Trump’s tenure, as excruciatingly bizarre, destructive, and still inspiring to a third of Americans, was but a short belch in history’s digestive tract, a digestive tract, by the way, in need of a strong colon cleanser. After all, what is four years in the grand scheme of things? If I make it to the age of 80 (no guarantee, note blood pressure numbers), four years will be only 5% of my life. And by the time I’m 80, I probably will not remember the previous 20 years or the last 15 minutes.

I tell myself that, look, I’m still standing after 12 years in the custody of the Chicago Public Schools system, Ronald Reagan’s dementia, Bill Clinton’s impeachment, George W. Bush’s blunders, the last 30 years of Bears football, a bunch of wars that accomplished, well, nothing and a New Kids on the Block concert (don’t ask).

So I think I will opt for detachment by simply sitting out, for example, the Trump-Marjorie Taylor Greene 2024 presidential ticket and our next military foray into fill-in-the-blank (Pro tip: Las Vegas favors Taiwan) and the much-anticipated return of a youthful and apparently converted conservative Republican, the one and only John Kennedy Jr.

Heck, what’s the worst possible thing that can happen to me? Please don’t answer that. I’m having a decent day. Now, where’s my helmet?

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Stop linking Rushdie attack to cancel culture

ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's fatwa against the author Salman Rushdie in 1989 made clear that the greatest threat to artists, intellectuals and journalists in the modern era comes from authoritarian states. In recent years, the latter have increasingly outsourced violence to murky non-state actors. This grim trend has been underscored by assassinations of dissenting writers in Russia, India, Pakistan, the Philippines and many other countries.

Yet many in the West have been quick to turn the attack on Rushdie by a Hezbollah groupie from New Jersey into "fodder for highly politicized polemics," as The New York Times put it. The unspeakable violence against Rushdie has become another "flash point in the roiling 21st-century debate over free speech, liberal values and 'cancel culture.'"

Thus, the Financial Times editorializes that free speech "needs to be defended with even more vehemence in the aftermath of the attack on Rushdie." Moreover, "freedom of speech in a liberal society must include the prerogative to say upsetting or offensive things."

Few people will dispute this ancient saw of liberalism. Yet we ought also to consider the complex new fact that liberal society is endangered by many of those vehemently defending free speech and the prerogative to say offensive things. The same week that Rushdie was attacked, Alex Jones, the stupendously wealthy talk-show host and founder of Free Speech Systems LLC, was ordered by a court to pay \$45 million to bereaved parents profoundly distressed by his repeatedly broadcast lie that the 2012 massacre of children at Sandy Hook Elementary school never happened.

Jones is only one of the many entrepreneurs worldwide who have cold-bloodedly monetized the right to offend—and thereby

helped poison politics and society on several continents. They prosper because liberal society's appetite for people saying offensive things has never been greater. Certainly, their ubiquity and success confirm that there has never been, for better and for worse, so much free speech, especially speech that is deliberately offensive.

Anyone with a smartphone today is a potential news broadcaster, political analyst, historian, literary critic and conspiracy theorist across a range of digital platforms. Bizarrely, however, a section of the mainstream Western intelligentsia insists that, as the much-discussed Harper's Letter in 2020 put it, "free expression of information and ideas is daily becoming more constrained."

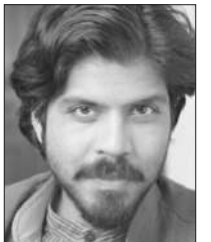
This unproven and unprovable notion is now back in circulation after the attack on Rushdie. Thus, a sentence after deploring the Saudi government's grisly killing of the journalist Jamal Khashoggi, the Financial Times invokes the Harper's Letter, asserting that, "less brutal, but more insidious, perhaps, has been the effect of 'cancel culture' on freedom of speech."

The Western signatories of the Harper's Letter may have been occasionally stung in their Twitter skirmishes. But virtual lynch mobs, however more insidious than bonesaw-wielding Saudi goons, have not managed to silence any of them. In fact, some thinkers routinely "cancelled" on social media enjoy flourishing careers; they confirm how easy it is today to secure a high income and reputation in the West by claiming righteous victimhood.

Lacking concrete evidence for widespread stifling of free speech, culture warriors have become purveyors of fearful speculation. In its report on the "roiling debate" on free speech last week, the New York Times quotes a Twitter commentator as saying that "sensitivity readers" at publishing houses today would stymie the publication of "The Satanic Verses."

By **PANKAJ MISHRA**

Bloomberg Opinion



Pankaj Mishra is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is author, most recently, of Run and Hide.

It might have been useful to ask Rushdie's publishers about this. Such conjecture could also have been balanced by noting that much of what could not be published for centuries due to mainstreamed racism, misogyny and homophobia is now finally getting into print.

The dominant beliefs of a society determine what can be published in it at any given time. Those beliefs, policed by a political and cultural establishment, are inevitably challenged when people previously excluded from the public sphere enter it with new media technologies. The outcome of such struggles for narrative authority is always ambiguous: More free speech about some things and less about others.

The question "who can say what" cannot be separated from ongoing political contests for power and demographic and technological shifts. This is why the debate about free speech is endlessly roiling and can never be resolved to the satisfaction of all debaters.

Members of an insecure cultural establishment in the West have taken to fiercely imagining a golden age when speech was truly free, unpunished by "cancel culture." An aging commentator is especially prone to see civilizational decay in its own loss of vigor and influence.

Still, the dread of slowly becoming irrelevant is not as terrible a fate as the actual assassination, torture and rape suffered by writers and journalists in Asia, Africa and Latin America, or the appallingly real violence inflicted on Rushdie. It is more imperative than ever to ignore the narcissistic declinism of a long-privileged Western minority, and to correctly identify the truly malign, resourceful and formidable persecutors of art and thought worldwide.

RUSHDIE

From Page 8

The U.S. is not immune. Targets have included health care leaders, school board members, U.S. Supreme Court justices, and even the FBI, which has seen an "unprecedented" rise in threats against its personnel and property in the wake of the Mar-a-Lago search last week.

The increasing intolerance must be addressed not only by law enforcement but also by those who have stoked online and on-air hate. That includes former President Donald Trump and his followers in Congress, who have fanned the flames of anti-government sentiment since the Mar-a-Lago search.

Trump recently told Fox Digital that the "temperature has to be brought down," but he raised it again by saying: "The country is in a very dangerous position. There is tremendous anger like I've never seen before, over all of the scams, and now this new one—years of scams and witch hunts, and now this."

Referring to a legitimate and legal search by the FBI as a "scam" and "witch hunt" only stokes anger—a trick Trump knows well.

He's right that this country is in a "very dangerous position," which means the world it is supposed to lead is in an even more precarious one.

Iran's leaders have denied culpability for Rushdie's attack, for example, but they did not condemn it.

America's leaders in politics, the news media and beyond may not be directly responsible for specific acts of intolerance, but they must not create the atmosphere that makes them possible.

How schools can help save the world

As schools reopen around the country, they could take a page out of the "greatest generation's" lesson plan—and help save the world.

In 1946, a year after the end of World War II, Europe and Asia were still reeling from the devastation of that conflict. War always leads to food shortages, and millions of people in countries torn apart by the world's biggest war were headed toward starvation as famine loomed.

President Harry Truman called upon all Americans to help avert global famine. The president said in a radio address in April 1946: "Now we cannot ignore the cry of hungry children. Surely we will not turn our backs on the millions of human beings begging for just a crust of bread. The warm heart of America will respond to the greatest threat of mass starvation in the history of mankind."

Schools nationwide were part of that heroic response. Baltimore schools collected donations for famine relief. Maryland schools held a "food plank for peace" essay contest; students wrote about the importance of feeding the hungry around the world.

The Washington Post reported that contest winner David Shaferman of Coral Hills, Maryland, wrote: "It's American to share. Certainly, as a nation that has become a leader, we should share our food with the other starving countries."

Junior high school students in Rocky Hill, Connecticut, went door to door collecting funds for famine relief, the Hartford Courant reported. In Boston, students were asked to encourage their families to conserve food to prevent waste.

In Chicago, public schools were a collecting point for food donations for overseas relief. The Tribune reported that Oak Park and River Forest High School students collected \$2,400 worth of food to feed children in Europe. Students at Tilden High School in Chicago fundraised to send a cow to a famine-stricken country through the charity Heifer International.

The greatest generation's students contributed to the effort to save hundreds of millions of lives worldwide from starvation.

Today, we are faced with the biggest hunger crisis since the end of World War II. Conflict, climate change and the pandemic led to increasing hunger at the start of this year, and Russia's

By **WILLIAM LAMBERS**

Chicago Tribune



William Lambers partnered with the United Nations World Food Program on the book Ending World Hunger and volunteered to write the Hunger Heroes section of FreeRice.

invasion of Ukraine only worsened the hunger crisis, with more people now needing aid.

According to the United Nations World Food Program, "the number of those facing acute food insecurity has soared — from 135 million to 345 million — since 2019. A total of 50 million people in 45 countries are teetering on the edge of famine."

There are children starving in civil war-torn Yemen. Families in East Africa are walking for days hoping to find food in the drought-ravaged countries of Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya. The Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic, Syria, South Sudan and many other countries are suffering from severe hunger.

Students can hold events such as basketball free throw contests, races or raffles to raise funds and awareness for global hunger relief. Students can use the Charity Miles app to raise funds for the World Food Program, Save the Children, Feeding America and UNICEF. They can write letters to Congress and the president about the importance of feeding the hungry.

The online trivia game FreeRice is a great resource for students to learn about and take action against hunger. Every correct answer while playing FreeRice leads to a donation to the World Food Program by the game's sponsors. Schools could even create FreeRice teams and have matches. Colleges, including multiple schools in Texas, have created FreeRice teams and held tournaments.

This school year can be one of being a global citizen and saving lives from famine.

Business

Russia's war at 6 months: A global economy in growing danger

By PAUL WISEMAN and DAVID McHUGH
AP BUSINESS WRITERS

MECKENHEIM, Germany (AP)—Martin Kopf needs natural gas to run his family's company, Zinkpower GmbH, which rustproofs steel components in western Germany.

Zinkpower's facility outside Bonn uses gas to keep 600 tons of zinc worth 2.5 million euros (\$2.5 million) in a molten state every day. The metal will harden otherwise, wrecking the tank where steel parts are dipped before they end up in car suspensions, buildings, solar panels and wind turbines.

Six months after Russia invaded Ukraine, the consequences are posing a devastating threat to the global economy, including companies like Zinkpower, which employs 2,800 people. Gas is not only much more costly, it might not be available at all if Russia completely cuts off supplies to Europe to avenge Western sanctions, or if utilities can't store enough for winter.

Germany may have to impose gas rationing that could cripple industries from steel-making to pharmaceuticals to commercial laundries. "If they say, we're cutting you off,



Street food vendor Warunee Deejai cooks lunch for customers in Bangkok, Thailand, Thursday, Aug. 11, 2022.

AP

all my equipment will be destroyed," said Kopf, who's also chairs Germany's association of zinc galvanizing firms.

Governments, businesses and families worldwide are feeling the war's economic effects just two years after the coronavirus pandemic ravaged global trade. Infla-

tion is soaring, and rocketing energy costs have raised the prospect of a cold, dark winter. Europe stands at the brink of recession.

High food prices and shortages, worsened by the cutoff of fertilizer and grain shipments from Ukraine and Russia that are slowly resuming, could produce widespread hunger and unrest in the developing world.

Outside Uganda's capital of Kampala, Rachel Gamisha said Russia's war in faraway Ukraine has hurt her grocery business. She has felt it in

surging prices for necessities like gasoline, selling for \$6.90 a gallon. Something that's 2,000 shillings (about \$16.70) this week may cost 3,000 shillings (\$25) next week.

"You have to limit yourself," she said. "You have to buy a few things that move fast."

Gamisha has noticed something else, too—a phenomenon called "shrinkflation": A price may not change, but a doughnut that used to weigh 45 grams may now be only 35 grams. Bread that weighed 1 kilogram is now 850 grams.

Russia's war led the Inter-

national Monetary Fund last month to downgrade its outlook for the global economy for the fourth time in under a year. The lending agency expects 3.2% growth this year, down from the 4.9% it forecast in July 2021 and well below a vigorous 6.1% last year.

"The world may soon be teetering on the edge of a global recession, only two years after the last one," Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, the IMF's chief economist, said.

The U.N. Development Program said rising food and energy prices threw 71 million

people worldwide into poverty in the first three months of the war. Countries in the Balkans and sub-Saharan Africa were hit hardest. Up to 181 million people in 41 countries could suffer a hunger crisis this year, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization has projected.

In Bangkok, rising costs for pork, vegetables and oil have forced Warunee Deejai, a street-food vendor, to raise prices, cut staff and work longer hours.

"I don't know how long I can keep my lunch price affordable," she said. "Coming out from COVID lockdowns and having to face this is tough. Worse is, I don't see the end of it."

Even before Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the invasion of Ukraine, the global economy was under pressure. Inflation had skyrocketed as a stronger-than-expected recovery from the pandemic recession overwhelmed factories, ports and freight yards, causing delays, shortages and higher prices. In response, central banks began raising interest rates to try to cool economic growth and tame spiking prices.

"We've all got all these different things going on," said Robin Brooks, chief economist at the International Institute of Finance. "The volatility of inflation went up. The volatility of growth went up. And therefore, it's become infinitely harder for central banks to steer the ship."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

China plans cloud seeding to protect grain crop from drought

CHONGQING, China (AP)—China says it will try to protect its grain harvest from record-setting drought by using chemicals to generate rain, while factories in the southwest waited Sunday to see whether they would be shut down for another week due to shortages of water to generate hydropower. The hottest, driest summer since the government began recording rainfall and temperature 61 years ago has wilted crops and left reservoirs at half their normal water level. Factories in Sichuan province were shut down last week to save power for homes as air conditioning demand surged, with temperatures as high as 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit). The coming 10 days are a "key period of damage resistance" for southern China's rice crop, said Agriculture Minister Tang Renjian, according to the newspaper Global Times. Authorities will take emergency steps to "ensure the autumn grain harvest,"

which is 75% of China's annual total, Tang said Friday, according to the report.

Ford to appeal \$1.7 billion verdict in Georgia truck crash

WOODSTOCK, Ga. (AP)—Ford Motor Co. plans to appeal a \$1.7 billion verdict against the automaker after a pickup truck crash that claimed the lives of a Georgia couple, a company representative said Sunday. Jurors in Gwinnett County, just northeast of Atlanta, returned the verdict late last week in the yearslong civil case involving what the plaintiffs' lawyers called dangerously defective roofs on Ford pickup trucks, lawyer James Butler Jr. said Sunday. Melvin and Voncile Hill were killed in April 2014 in the rollover wreck of their 2002 Ford F-250. Their children Kim and Adam Hill were the plaintiffs in the wrongful death case. "While our sympathies go out to the Hill family, we do not believe the verdict is supported by the evidence, and we plan to appeal," Ford said in a statement to The Associated Press on Sunday.

Homeowning while Black: Couple alleges bias in appraisal

NEW YORK (AP)—How much does it pay to hide the photos of your family at your home, or anything else that shows your race? If you're Black and trying to find out how much your house is worth, one family suggests it could be hundreds of thousands of dollars.

A couple in Baltimore is suing an appraiser and a mortgage lender, alleging their home was severely undervalued because they are Black, blocking them from refinancing their mortgage. The couple says a separate appraisal, done after "whitewashing" the place by removing family photos and having a white colleague stand in for them, pegged the home's value higher by \$278,000.

The two "were shocked at the appraisal and recognized that the low valuation was because of racial discrimination," according to the suit filed earlier this week in U.S. District Court in Maryland.

Officials at the lender accused in the case, loanDepot, declined to discuss the allegations. But in a statement, the publicly traded company said it strongly opposes bias. "While appraisals are performed independently by outside expert appraisal firms, all participants in the home finance process must work to find ways to contribute to eradicating bias."

The appraisal company in the case, 20/20 Valuations, could not be immediately reached for comment. Neither it nor the individual appraiser named in the suit has lawyers listed yet in the court filings.

The situation began last year, when two professors at Johns Hopkins University, Nathan Connolly and Shani Mott, wanted to do the same thing millions of others across the country were doing. They hoped to take advantage of low interest rates and refinance their mortgage and a home-equity loan.

The couple had bought their four-bedroom home in 2017 for \$450,000 and had made several upgrades to it. They remodeled their club room for \$35,000, for example. They also invested in a tankless water heater, recessed lighting and other improvements that the family's lawyers say raised the value of the home.

That would be on top of the general rise that home prices enjoyed in the area and across the country between 2017 and 2021.

The couple applied in mid-2021 with loanDepot, which initially approved them for a 2.25% interest rate, pending an appraisal to ensure the home was worth enough in case of a default. A loanDepot lending officer told the family a "pretty conservative" estimate was \$550,000, according to the suit.

But the appraiser from 20/20 Valuations, who was hired by loanDepot, said the home was worth only \$472,000, according to the complaint. That

pushed loanDepot to call to say it would not extend the loan, according to the complaint.

The suit alleges that while researching other homes to benchmark against the plaintiff's home, the appraiser ignored nearby sales in majority-white areas, similar to the plaintiff's, that had higher values. Instead, the complaint said he included lower-valued homes and ones in areas with more Black residents.

Later that year, the couple learned the government assessed the value of their home at \$622,000. After that, they tried for another loan. This time, they conducted an experiment where they replaced family photos with ones borrowed from white friends and colleagues. They even brought in new artwork, including a vintage print featuring a "white pin-up model." And they made sure not to be home during the appraisal, with a white colleague there instead to greet the appraiser.

Nation

Back to school, with panic buttons: The post-Uvalde scramble

MISSION, Kan. (AP)—Melissa Lee comforted her son and daughter after a student opened fire in their suburban Kansas City high school, wounding an administrator and a police officer stationed there.

Then weeks later, she wept for the parents in Uvalde, Texas, who were forced to bury their children after the massacre there in May. She said she was “absolutely” reassured when she learned her district had since purchased one of the panic-alert systems gaining traction nationwide amid a surge in school violence that includes shootings and fights. The technology, featuring wearable panic buttons or mobile phone apps, enables teachers to notify each other and police in the event of an emergency.

“Time is of the essence,” said Lee, whose son helped barricade a classroom door and watched police enter his school with guns drawn. “They can hit a button and, OK, we know something’s wrong, you know, really wrong. And then it puts everybody else on high alert.”

Multiple states now mandate or encourage the buttons, and a growing number of districts are shelling out tens of thousands of dollars per school for them — part of a widespread scramble to beef up school security and prevent the next tragedy. The spending spree includes metal detectors, security cameras, vehicle barriers, alarm systems, clear backpacks, bullet-



Brent Kiger, Olathe Public Schools’ director of safety service, displays a panic-alert button while students at Olathe South High School rush between classes Friday, Aug. 19, 2022, in Olathe, Kan.

resistant glass and door-locking systems.

Critics say school officials are scrambling to show action — any action — to worried parents ahead of the new school year, but in their haste may be emphasizing the wrong things. It’s “security theater,” said Ken Trump, president of the National School Safety and Security Services. Instead, he said, schools should focus on making sure teachers are implementing basic safety

protocols such as ensuring doors aren’t propped open.

The attack in Uvalde illustrated the shortcomings of panic-alert systems. Robb Elementary School had implemented an alert app, and when an attacker approached the school, a school employee did send a lockdown alert. But not all teachers received it because of poor Wi-Fi or phones that were turned off or in a drawer, according to an investigation by the Texas

Legislature. And those who did may not have taken it seriously, the Legislature’s report said: The school sent out frequent alerts related to Border Patrol car chases in the area.

“People want visible, tangible things,” Trump said. “It’s a lot harder to point to the value of training your staff. Those are intangibles. Those are things that are less visible and invisible, but they’re most effective.”

In suburban Kansas City,

the decision to spend \$2.1 million over five years for a system called CrisisAlert “isn’t a knee-jerk reaction,” said Brent Kiger, Olathe Public Schools’

director of safety services. He said he had been eying the system even before gunfire erupted in an Olathe high school in March as staff confronted an 18-year-old over rumors that he had a gun in his backpack.

“It helped us kind of evaluate it and look at it through a lens of: ‘We’ve been through this critical incident, and how would it have helped us?’ And it would have helped us that day,” he said. “There’s just no question about that.”

The system, a different one than what Uvalde relied on, allows staff to trigger a lockdown that will be announced with flashing strobe lights, a takeover of staff computers and a prerecorded intercom announcement. Teachers can set off the alarms by pushing a button on a wearable badge at least eight times. Staff also can summon help to break up a hallway fight or to deal with a medical emergency if they push the button three times.

Demand for CrisisAlert had been growing even before Uvalde, with revenue from new contracts increasing 270% from the first quarter of 2021 to the first quarter of 2022, the product’s maker, Centegix, said in a statement.

Hiker missing in Utah flooding as monsoon hits US Southwest

SPRINGDALE, Utah (AP)—Authorities have been searching for days for an Arizona woman reported missing after being swept away by floodwaters in Utah’s Zion National Park as strong seasonal rain storms hit parts of the U.S. Southwest.

National Park Service officials said rangers and members of the Zion Search and Rescue Team were in the Virgin River area Sunday looking for Jetal Agnihotri, 29, of Tucson.

They said Agnihotri was among several hikers who were swept off their feet Friday afternoon by rushing water in the popular Narrows area in the park, known for its spectacular red-rock cliffs and narrow canyons, in southern Utah near the Arizona border.

All of the hikers except Agnihotri were found on high ground and were stranded until water levels receded.

Rain can turn hiking in the

park deadly when the moisture runs off the desert landscape and quickly fills canyons with water, rocks and debris, especially during the summer when seasonal afternoon thunderstorms develop. The storms can lead to flooding in normally dry washes and in areas stripped of vegetation by wildfires that have plagued the drought-stricken region. Vegetation normally slows and partially absorbs precipitation.

On Sunday, an approximately 20-mile (32-kilometer) stretch of Colorado’s main east-west highway, Interstate 70, was temporarily closed because of the risk of flooding and mudslides from forecasted storms in Glenwood Canyon, where a wildfire burned in 2020.

Elsewhere in Utah, flooding in Moab, the gateway to Arches National Park, on Saturday night closed trails in the city on Sunday as crews assessed the damage. A video posted

on the city’s Twitter account showed a creek gushing under a downtown bridge.

Meanwhile, in New Mexico, officials at Carlsbad Caverns National Park said about 150 tourists were evacuated late Saturday night after being stranded by rising water.

Park officials told people at the visitor’s center to wait there for hours because of flash flooding.

Authorities said several rivers and streams in New Mexico have nearly reached historic flood levels not seen since the 1960s due to recent heavy rainfall.

In Arizona, emergency crews rescued four hikers stranded in Sabino Canyon east of Tucson on Friday and helped 41 students and staff from Marana off school buses that got stuck in high water when the storms began to move in.

More than 3 inches (7.62

centimeters) of rain fell Saturday in the mountains northeast of Tucson, according to the National Weather Service.

The rain comes amid a drought that scientists say is the worst in the U.S. West in 1,200 years and aggravated by climate change. Colorado River reservoirs have fallen to historic lows as a result. Earlier this week, states that rely on the river missed a deadline for deciding how to cut the amount of water they use from the river.

For Nevada, recent storms have given the Las Vegas metro area its wettest monsoon season in 10 years.

“Most locales in Arizona, New Mexico, the California deserts, southern Nevada, and a few other scattered areas have measured at least 200 percent of normal (rainfall) over the past 2 months,” the U.S. Drought Monitor said in a report issued on Aug. 11.

3 Arkansas officers suspended after video captures beating

MULBERRY, Ark. (AP)—Three Arkansas law enforcement officers were suspended Sunday following social media outrage over a video that shows a suspect being held down on the ground and beaten.

Crawford County Sheriff Jimmy Damante issued a statement Sunday evening, stating two county deputies will be suspended during the course of the Arkansas state police’s investigation into the incident and the sheriff’s office’s internal investigation. A Mulberry police officer also was suspended.

“I hold all my employees accountable for their actions and will take appropriate measures in this matter,” Damante said.

In a statement released Sunday evening, Mulberry Police Chief Shannon Gregory said the officer involved in the incident is on leave pending the outcome of the investigation.

“The city of Mulberry and the Mulberry police department takes these investigations very seriously,” Gregory said.

According to police, a report indicated that a man was making threats to a convenience store employee in Mulberry on Sunday morning. Mulberry is located about 137 miles (220.48 kilometers) northwest of Little Rock.

Police said when the officers confronted the man, he pushed a deputy to the ground and punched the back of his head, leading to the arrest seen in the video.

Three law enforcement officers are seen in the video. One can be seen punching the shoeless suspect with a clenched fist, while another can be seen kneeling him, and a third is holding him down.

The unidentified man was arrested and taken to a local hospital. He faces charges of terroristic threatening, resisting arrest and other assault charges, police said.

Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson said Sunday night on Twitter that the “incident in Crawford County will be investigated pursuant to the video evidence and the request of the prosecuting attorney.”

No further information was immediately available.

Asia

27M-plus return to Philippine schools after virus lockdowns



AP

A girl holds on to his father during the opening of classes at the San Juan Elementary School in Pasig, Philippines on Monday, Aug. 22, 2022.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Millions of students wearing face masks streamed back to primary and secondary schools across the Philippines Monday in their first in-person classes after two years of coronavirus lockdowns that are feared to have worsened one of the world's most alarming illiteracy rates among children.

Officials grappled with daunting problems, including classroom shortages, lingering COVID-19 fears, an approaching storm and quake-damaged school build-

ings in the country's north, to welcome back many of more than 27 million students who enrolled for the school year.

Only more than 24,000 of the nation's public schools, or about 46%, would be able to open in-person classes five times a week starting Monday, while the rest would still resort to a mix of in-person and online classes until Nov. 2, when all public and private schools are required to bring all students back to classrooms, education officials said.

About 1,000 schools will

be unable to shift to face-to-face classes entirely during the transition period ending on Nov. 2 for various reasons, including damages to school building wrought by a powerful earthquake last month in the north, officials said.

The Department of Education said some schools would have to split classes up to three shifts a day due to classroom shortages, a longstanding problem, and to avoid overcrowding that could turn schools into new epicenters of coronavirus outbreaks.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japan's PM Kishida isolates with COVID-19, cancels travels

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and canceled his planned travels while he isolates and recuperates. Kishida developed a slight fever and cough late Saturday and a PCR test for the coronavirus was positive, said Noriyuki Shikata, the cabinet secretary for public affairs at the prime minister's office. "Prime Minister Kishida is isolated inside his residence," he told The Associated Press on Sunday. The 65-year-old prime minister was on summer vacation last week and was scheduled to return to work Monday. It's not clear where or how he was infected.

Singapore to decriminalize gay sex, protect marriage law

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Singapore will decriminalize sex between men by repealing a colonial-era

law but will amend the constitution to ensure same-sex marriage is not allowed, the city-state's leader said Sunday. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said he believed repealing the law is the "right thing to do now" as most Singaporeans will now accept decriminalization. "Private sexual behavior between consenting adults does not raise any law and order issue. There is no justification to prosecute people for it nor to make it a crime," Lee said. "This will bring the law into line with current social mores and I hope provide some relief to gay Singaporeans." During his speech at the annual National Day Rally, Lee said the government will amend the constitution to ensure that there can be no constitutional challenge to allow same-sex marriage.

Police file terrorism charges against Pakistan's Imran Khan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistani police have filed terror-

ism charges against former Prime Minister Imran Khan, authorities said Monday, escalating political tensions in the country as he holds mass rallies seeking to return to office. The terrorism charges come over a speech Khan gave in Islamabad on Saturday in which he vowed to sue police officers and a female judge and alleged that a close aide had been tortured after his arrest. Khan himself appeared to still be free and had not immediately addressed the police charge sheet being lodged against him. Pakistan's opposition Tehreek-e-Insaf party, Khan's political party, published online videos showing supporters surrounding his home to potentially stop police from reaching it. Hundreds remained there early Monday. Under Pakistan's legal system, police file what it known as a first information report about the charges against an accused to a magistrate judge, who allows the investigation to move forward. Typically, police then arrest and question the accused.

World

Car blast kills a daughter of the Russian known as 'Putin's brain'

MOSCOW (AP)—The daughter of an influential Russian political theorist often referred to as "Putin's brain" was killed in a car bombing on the outskirts of Moscow, authorities said Sunday.

The Moscow branch of the Russian Investigative Committee said preliminary information indicated 29-year-old TV commentator Daria Dugina was killed by an explosive planted in the SUV she was driving Saturday night.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. But the bloodshed gave rise to suspicions that the intended target was her father, Alexander Dugin, a nationalist philosopher and writer.

Dugin is a prominent proponent of the "Russian world" concept, a spiritual and political ideology that emphasizes traditional values, the restoration of Russia's power and the unity of all ethnic Russians throughout the world. He is also a vehement supporter of Russian President Vladimir Putin's move sending troops



In this handout photo taken from video released by Investigative Committee of Russia on Sunday, Aug. 21, 2022, investigators work on the site of explosion of a car driven by Daria Dugina outside Moscow.

AP

into Ukraine.

The explosion took place as his daughter was returning from a cultural festival she had attended with him. Russian media reports cited witnesses as saying the SUV belonged to Dugin and that he had decided at the last minute to travel in another vehicle.

The car bombing, unusual for Moscow, is likely to aggravate tensions between Russia and Ukraine.

Denis Pushilin, president

of the separatist Donetsk People's Republic, the pro-Moscow region that is a focus of Russia's fighting in Ukraine, blamed the blast on "terrorists of the Ukrainian regime, trying to kill Alexander Dugin."

Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, denied Ukrainian involvement, saying, "We are not a criminal state, unlike Russia, and definitely not a terrorist state."

Somali forces end hotel attack that left 21 dead, 117 hurt

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—Somali authorities on Sunday ended an attack by Islamic extremists that left 21 people dead and over 110 wounded when gunmen stormed a hotel in the capital.

It took Somali forces more than 30 hours to contain the fighters who had stormed Mogadishu's Hayat Hotel on Friday evening in an assault that started with loud explosions. The attack is the first major terror attack in Mogadishu since Somalia's new leader, Hassan Sheikh

Mohamud, took over in May.

The siege ended around midnight, police commissioner Abdi Hassan Hajar told reporters.

"During the attack, the security forces rescued many civilians trapped in the hotel, including women and children," he said.

Health Minister Dr. Ali Haji Adam reported 21 deaths and 117 people wounded, with at least 15 in critical condition. He noted that some victims may not have been brought

to hospitals.

The Islamic extremist group al-Shabab, which has ties with al-Qaida, claimed responsibility for the attack, the latest of its frequent attempts to strike places visited by government officials.

Al-Shabab opposes the federal government and outside groups that support it. Al-Shabab remains the most lethal Islamic extremist group in Africa and the biggest threat to political stability in the volatile Horn of Africa nation.

Pope voices worry over bishop's detention in Nicaragua

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis voiced worry Sunday about the situation in Nicaragua, where police detained several Roman Catholic clergy, including a bishop, critical of President Daniel Ortega's administration.

Calling for "open and sincere dialogue," the pontiff made his first public comment on the Friday raid of Matagalpa Bishop Rolando Alvarez's residence. The detention of him and an unknown number of priests came amid worsening tensions between the church and a government increasingly intolerant of dissent.

Francis told thousands of

people gathered in St. Peter's Square for his customary Sunday noon remarks that he was closely following with "worry and sorrow" events in Nicaragua that involve "persons and institutions." He didn't mention the detentions.

"I would like to express my conviction and my hope that through means of open and sincere dialogue, one can still find the bases for respectful and peaceful co-existence," the pope said.

Before Friday's pre-dawn raid, Nicaraguan authorities had accused the bishop of "organizing violent groups" and inciting them "to carry

out acts of hate against the population."

The National Police confirmed the detentions, saying the operation was carried out to allow "the citizenry and families of Matagalpa to recover normalcy." It didn't cite specific charges.

"For several days, a positive communication from the Matagalpa diocese was awaited with a lot of patience, prudence and sense of responsibility, that never materialized," the statement said. "With the continuation of the destabilizing and provocative activities, the aforementioned public order operation became necessary."

Overdrive

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP)—Thundering gas-powered muscle cars, for decades a fixture of American culture, will be closing in on their final Saturday-night cruises in the coming years as automakers begin replacing them with super-fast cars that run on batteries.

Stellantis' Dodge brand, long the performance flag-bearer of the company formerly known as Fiat Chrysler, is officially moving toward electricity. On Wednesday night, Dodge unveiled a battery-powered Charger Daytona SRT concept car, which is close to one that will be produced in 2024 as the sun sets on some petroleum models.

Stellantis says it will stop making gasoline versions of the Dodge Challenger and Charger muscle cars and the Chrysler 300 large car by the end of next year. The Canadian factory that makes them will be converted to electric vehicles. Other automakers are moving—or have moved—in the same direction.

General Motors has said it will build an all-electric Chevrolet Corvette. Tesla says its Model S Plaid version is the fastest production vehicle made, able to go from zero to 60 mph (97 kilometers per hour) in under 2 seconds. Audi, Mercedes, Porsche and other European automakers already have high-performance electric models on sale. And Polestar, an electric-performance spinoff from Volvo, just announced a new Polestar 6 roadster for 2026.

One reason for the industry shift is that electric vehicles are simply faster off the starting line. Their handling is typically better, too, because their heavy batteries create a low center of gravity.

Stricter government pollution requirements are another fac-

tor, too. As automakers in the U.S. face more stringent fuel-economy requirements adopted by the Biden administration and produce a broader range of EV vehicles, they will have to jettison some of their gas-fueled muscle-car models.

Tim Kuniskis, CEO of the Dodge brand, said the possibility of government fines for not meeting gas-mileage requirements hastened the shift to the electric Charger. "Compliance fines and things like that associated with a big cast-iron supercharged V8, yes, it's tough," he said.

Still, it will take a few years for the gas-powered classics to go away.

"Over the next several years, I think we'll continue to have some internal combustion stuff, probably through most of the decade," said Sam Abuel-samid, a research analyst at Guidehouse Insights. "But increasingly, the focus is going to be on the electric ones."

Under new gas-mileage standards that were unveiled in

April, the fleet of new vehicles will have to average around 40 miles per gallon in 2026, up from 25.4 mpg now, the EPA says. The standards are likely to become even stronger in the future, a trend that will compel U.S.-based automakers to shed some gasoline muscle cars if they are to avoid fines.

Of all major automakers, the EPA says, Stellantis had the lowest average fuel economy—21.3 miles per gallon—and the highest average carbon dioxide emissions. So the company likely will have to eliminate some models to avoid fines. Its limited-edition Charger SRT Widebody, with a supercharged 6.2-liter Hemi Hellcat V-8, for instance, gets only 12 mpg in city driving and 21 mpg on the highway.

To many gearheads, the thought of a muscle car without noise and smells is heresy. But Kuniskis says Dodge is working hard to make the electric experi-

ence match internal combustion. The Charger, he said, will generate its own air flow to make an exhaust noise that rivals gas performance cars. And the transmission will shift gears.

When the electric Charger was driven through a garage door and entered a building Wednesday night at a racetrack in Pontiac, Michigan, it roared just like a gas muscle car.

Electric vehicles, Kuniskis said, have the potential to perform better than gas muscle cars with fast acceleration. But he said they are kind of sterile. "It doesn't have the emotion. It doesn't have the drama. It doesn't have the kind of dangerous feeling that ICE (an internal combustion engine) has when it's loud and rumbling and shifting and moving the car around."

Kuniskis wouldn't say how fast the electric Charger will go from zero to 60 mph, but said it would be faster than the company's current petroleum performance cars. He also wouldn't say the range-per-charge for the new Challenger, but added that range isn't as important as making it a true muscle car.

Rick Nelson, the owner of Muscledar Restoration & Design in Pleasant Plains, Illinois, near Springfield, cautioned that switching from loud fuel-burning engines to quiet electricity may be a hard sell to old-timers who grew up with the sounds and smells of racing.

Nelson, 61, said he restored his first car while a teen-ager and spent hours at drag strips. He acknowledged that the switch to electricity is inevitable and

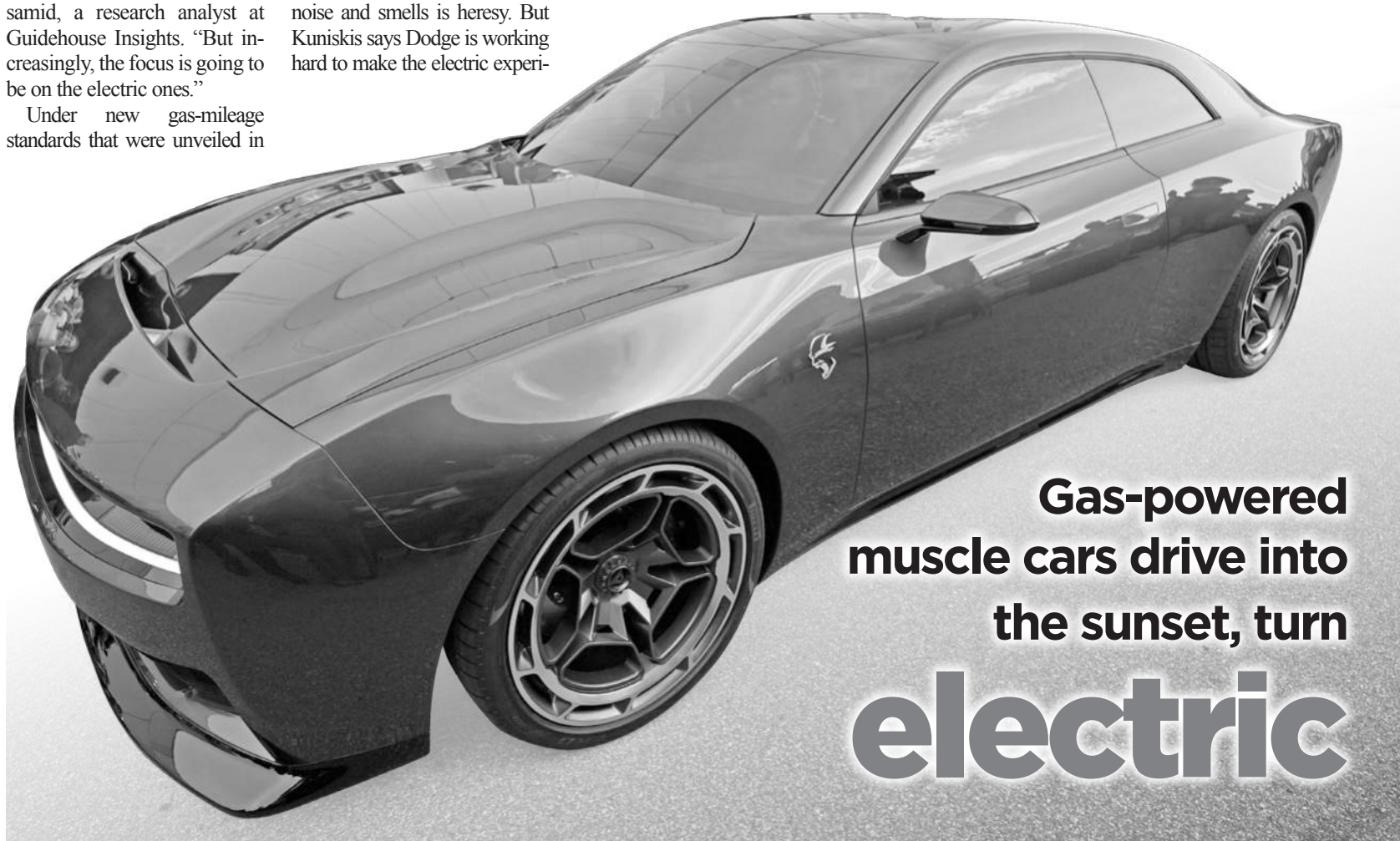
is needed to attract a new generation that has become used to quiet speed. Still, he said, electric muscle cars won't have manual shifters, and he'll miss the smell of racing fuel at the track.

Already, Nelson said, businesses are cropping up to put electric powertrains in classic muscle cars. He has been in touch with an engineer at Tesla about retrofitting batteries and electric motors into some classics.

"Guys like me are just going to frown on it and laugh at it," Nelson said of electric muscle cars. "But this isn't about my generation."

Kuniskis says the shift to electricity doesn't mean the end of the muscle car. It's just a new era.

"It's OK," he said. "Let us show you what the future looks like."



**Gas-powered
muscle cars drive into
the sunset, turn
electric**

Do I really need to wax my car?

Q: I see you recommend waxing your car twice a year. I have owned more than 30 cars in my life and have never waxed one of them. When my car comes out of the car wash, it looks as good as any of my neighbors' cars. Have you sold out to the wax companies or should I have my eyes tested?

A: Sold out? That's impossible. I am having too much fun writing this column to risk getting fired. Not everybody goes to the car wash. Many of us prefer to wash our own cars in the shade of a big tree with a cold beer. As to your eyes, see your optometrist.

■■■■■

Q: Are automated car

washes safe? How often, if at all, should they be used? I read your column each week and really learn a lot.

A: You may be surprised to learn that car washes are often safer than doing it yourself. Owners unwittingly drag dirt around with their sponges, rags or mitts. Most do not use a second bucket to rinse the sponge or mitt before dipping back in the soapy bucket. Run your car through the car wash whenever it needs a bath. Shop around. Some even offer unlimited washes for the cost of a couple pay-as-you-go trips.

■■■■■

Q: Quite often when I am driving at night, I come up

on a car with no taillights. I then assume that they don't have any lights on at all. When I get in front of them, I see that they do have their headlights on. In my experience, when you have your headlights on you also have your taillights on. How is it possible to have headlights on without having taillights on? This is baffling to me.

A: Although it may appear that the headlights are on, it is likely the daytime running lights that you see. DRLs previously used the high beams at reduced voltage. In urban areas with lots of ambient lighting, the driver may not notice that the real headlights are not on. DRLs have changed lately with most vehicles now sporting LED arrays. They are even

part of the overall styling of the car. Some look way cool.

■■■■■

Q: My 2018 Prius uses radar to maintain distance when using Adaptive Cruise Control. How much if any of the radar energy penetrates the car in front of me?

A: None. The signal bounces back to your car. You, too, are safe when the signal returns.

■■■■■

Q: I have a 1995 Oldsmobile with a 3.8-liter engine. Over the years, the car has had a problem with the intake gaskets leaking. They have been changed twice and I fear it's ready for a third because the antifreeze in the reservoir tank goes very low plus the engine will misfire.

MOTORMOUTH By BOB WEBER

Chicago Tribune

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.



Could you please advise me on this repair? I would like to keep the car if it is worth repairing.

A: The original gaskets were plastic, but there are improved aluminum gaskets that hold up much better. I have

faith in Fel-Pro gaskets, which I have used for years with long lasting results. Edmunds estimates the value of your car to be roughly between \$850 and \$1,200 for a car in average shape. Get some quotes for the repair to help you decide.

Life & Style

Lopez and Affleck celebrate marriage with friends, family

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP FILM WRITER

Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck said “I do” again this weekend. But instead of in a late night Las Vegas drive through chapel, this time it was in front of friends and family in Georgia, a person close to the couple who was not authorized to speak publicly said Sunday.

According to People Magazine, the wedding was held at Affleck’s home outside of Savannah, Georgia, with all of their kids present for the proceedings on Saturday. The celebrity couple were officially married last month in Las Vegas, which Lopez shared with fans in her “On the J Lo” newsletter.

“Love is beautiful. Love is kind. And it turns out love is patient. Twenty years patient,” Lopez wrote last month, signing off as Jennifer Lynn Affleck. Lopez, 53, and Affleck, 50, famously dated in the early 2000s. They starred together in 2003’s “Gigli” and 2004’s “Jersey Girl” and became engaged but didn’t wed at the time.

Paparazzi has feverishly trailed the couple since they rekindled their romance last year, from the earliest stages of the courtship, to their red carpet debut at last year’s Venice International Film Festival and their recent honeymoon in Paris. Representatives for the couple did not immediately respond to request for comment Sunday.



AP
Cast member Jennifer Lopez, right, and Ben Affleck attend a photo call for a special screening of “Marry Me” at DGA Theater on Feb. 8, 2022, in Los Angeles.

‘Dragon Ball Super’ bests ‘Beast’ at box office with \$20.1M

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP FILM WRITER

Idris Elba may go head-to-head with a lion in “Beast,” but the action flick was no match for the latest “Dragon Ball” movie at the North American box office this weekend. “Dragon Ball Super: Super Hero” topped the charts in its first weekend in theaters, with \$20.1 million in ticket sales according to studio estimates on Sunday. “Beast,” meanwhile, settled for a second-place debut with \$11.6 million. Crunchyroll released “Dragon Ball Super: Super Hero” on 3,900 screens in North America, marking the widest-ever opening for an anime. The Toei Animation production was directed by Tetsuro Kodama, who had the support of “Dragon Ball” creator Akira Toriyama. The Dragon Ball universe is almost 40 years old, and includes manga, television shows, movies, games and toys. “We’re absolutely thrilled that Dragon Ball fans could come together to experience and enjoy this amazing film in theaters,” said Mitchel Berger, senior vice president of global commerce for the distributor,

in a statement. “Crunchyroll thanks all of the fans, whether or not you are a ‘super’ fan or a newcomer, and we hope they come back again and again.” According to PostTrak, the “Dragon Ball Super” audience was heavily male (79%) and 44% between the ages of 25 and 34. “Japanese anime is a cinematic tradition, but rarely do you see a movie like this topping the domestic chart,” said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. “To be ahead of all these other mainstream Hollywood movies is quite incredible. It speaks volumes to the globalization of the box office.” “Beast,” meanwhile, opened on 3,743 screens in North America. The film, directed by Baltasar Kormákur (“Everest”) stars Elba as a widowed father of two teenage girls, played by Iyana Halley and Leah Jeffries, who find themselves on the run from a bloodthirsty lion during a trip to South Africa. Including international showings, “Beast” has made \$21.8 million so far. “I think this is a terrific start for ‘Beast,’” said Jim Orr, Uni-

versal’s head of domestic distribution. “I believe we will have a great run at the box office.” Elba also has another film opening in theaters next weekend — George Miller’s fantasy epic “Three Thousand Years of Longing.” Sony’s “Bullet Train,” meanwhile, landed in third place after two weekends at No. 1 with an estimated \$8 million, bringing its domestic total to \$68.9 million. Paramount’s “Top Gun: Maverick” placed fourth in its 13th weekend in theaters with an additional \$5.9 million. “Top Gun” has made over \$683 million in North America to date, which was was enough to overtake “Avengers: Infinity War” as the sixth highest grossing domestic release of all time. “DC League of Super-Pets” rounded out the top five. Paramount also released “Orphan: First Kill” on Paramount+ and in 498 locations this weekend. The Esther origin story made an estimated \$1.7 million from theaters. The weekend overall saw about \$77 million in North American ticket sales — up over 168% from the same weekend last year— bringing

the year to date to \$5.2 billion, according to Comscore. But the summer movie season continues a wind down that may last deep into the fall. “It’s not that there’s not going to be any movies, there’s just not going to be a \$100 million blockbuster for a while,” Dergarabedian said. “But in the interim, there’s going to be a lot of cool movies, like ‘Don’t Worry Darling’ (Sept. 23).”

- Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.
1. “Dragon Ball Super: Super Hero,” \$20.1 million.
 2. “Beast,” \$11.6 million.
 3. “Bullet Train,” \$8 million.
 4. “Top Gun: Maverick,” \$5.9 million.
 5. “DC League of Super-Pets,” \$5.8 million.
 6. “Thor: Love and Thunder,” \$4 million.
 7. “Nope,” \$3.6 million.
 8. “Minions: The Rise of Gru,” \$3.5 million.
 9. “Where the Crawdads Sing,” \$3.2 million.
 10. “Bodies Bodies Bodies,” \$2.4 million.

Witness about R. Kelly: I didn’t want to ‘carry his lies’

CHICAGO (AP)—A woman who says she was sexually abused hundreds of times by R. Kelly as a minor testified Friday that she agonized several years ago about whether to cooperate with federal investigators who were looking into child abuse allegations involving the singer, but she ultimately did because she didn’t want to “carry his lies.” Hours before jurors got their first glimpse of sexually explicit videos at the heart of the prosecution’s bid to prove Kelly produced child pornography and successfully rigged his 2008 child porn trial, the woman, who is now 37 and going by the pseudonym “Jane” during the current trial, conceded that even after she began cooperating, she lied when she

told agents she wasn’t sure if Kelly had abused minors other than her. She said she lied because she didn’t want to get others in trouble. Jane testified for over four hours Thursday, saying it was she and Kelly in a videotape that was the focus of the 2008 trial, at which he was acquitted. She also said Kelly sexually abused her hundreds of times from the late 1990s before she turned 18. Kelly, 55, was around 30 years old at the time. While cross-examining her Friday, Kelly’s lead attorney, Jennifer Bonjean, sought to cast the R&B singer in a more favorable light after Jane testified the day before about how Kelly pursued her sexually starting when she was around 14 years old.

Struggling wife at wits’ end with unhelpful hubby

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been together for 12 years and our relationship has started to suffer. We no longer have dates, we don’t spend any time talking with each other unless it’s about the kids, and the intimacy has faded. A year ago, I asked him to go to a counselor with me. I asked him to be the one to set it up, as I’m always in charge of doctor appointments, bill paying, etc. I wanted him to show he was “all in” to help fix our marriage. I have reminded him to do it several times, but he hasn’t. He claims to love me and to want our marriage to thrive, yet he does nothing. Now that the intimacy is completely gone, he all of a sudden wants to work on things. Go figure. I feel hurt and rejected and like throwing in the towel, but we have built a life together and I do love him. I don’t think therapy will work because I’ll feel like I manipulated him to get there by withholding the intimacy. I feel sad and defeated. The man I married is gone, replaced by this person who is just going through the motions and using me to take care of his kids and clean his house. Please advise.

ON HOLD IN ARKANSAS

DEAR ON HOLD: Ask your doctor for a referral to a psychologist and make an appointment—for YOURSELF—for help rebuilding your sagging self-esteem. Because you long ago assumed the role of organizer-arranger in your

marriage, it was unrealistic to expect your husband to suddenly pick up the ball. He may not know how. Once you are stronger emotionally, schedule those sessions with a licensed marriage and family therapist, as you have all the other appointments during your marriage. Your relationship with your husband does need work, and this is the path to repairing it. ■■■■ **DEAR ABBY:** My fiance and I have a child together. I’m 31, and he’s 16 years older. Sometimes I don’t know if our relationship will work out in the long run because he’s so stubborn and set in his ways. I’m more laid-back and easygoing. What is bothering me the most right now is his mother constantly asks him for money. It’s not just for little things; it’s for roof and furnace repair and problems with her water heater, washer/dryer, stove and A/C. She’s married, and her husband works. He should be able to provide her with the things they need for their house. It’s not like my fiance is rich. He isn’t. I have tried talking to him about it, but it just ends up in an explosive argument. It’s like, why should I even try to save for our family’s future and the things we need for our house if he’s going to keep giving it to his mother every time she asks? Please help. **ALL FOR MAMA** **DEAR ALL:** You wrote that YOU are trying to save for

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



your family’s future. Is your fiance giving his mother money that you have been earning, or is it his? If it is his, he can do with it as he pleases -- at least until after the wedding. If he is fiscally responsible, he should also be trying to save for the future. However, if he isn’t, recognize that the pattern he has established may not be a sound one for you and your child, and plan accordingly.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Mateo lifts Orioles past Boston in MLB Little League Classic



W I L -
L I A M -
S P O R T,
P a .

(AP)—Jorge Mateo felt like a kid again when he arrived in a town overrun by Little Leaguers wanting nothing more to do at a major-league game than chug Gatorades, hurry to reach the front of the line at the ice cream stand and yell for every run — no matter which team scored.

The speedy shortstop keeping Baltimore in the post-season hunt made the tiny stadium in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, sound like Camden Yards for a night. The Little Leaguers had their fill of fun. The Orioles did, too, from cardboard races to the fireworks after the final out.

Mateo lined a bases-loaded double to left field in the eighth inning, driving in three runs and sparking the Baltimore Orioles to a 5-3 win over the Boston Red Sox on Sunday night in front of hundreds of cheering Little League World Series players from around the world.

"It's something that reminded me of my own childhood," Mateo said through an interpreter.

Mateo kept the Orioles 2 1/2 games behind in the race for the third and final AL wild-card spot, and Baltimore won the fifth MLB Little League Classic in front of former President George W. Bush and a sellout crowd of 2,467 fans at historic Bowman Field. Bush shook hands with Orioles and Red Sox players and went into the stands to meet Little Leaguers and their families.

Yankees 4, Blue Jays 2

In New York, Andrew Benintendi hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the seventh inning and the New York Yankees got a win they desperately needed, beating the Toronto Blue Jays 4-2 Sunday to avoid a four-game sweep.

The AL East-leading Yankees won for just the 10th time in 30 games since the All-Star break. They top the division by eight games over Toronto.

Anthony Rizzo scored on a throwing error by Toronto left fielder Lourdes Gurriel Jr in the first, and DJ LeMahieu hit a go-ahead RBI single in the fourth.

Whit Merrifield hit a bizarre home run in the Toronto fourth on a ball that twice bounced on the fence before going over. The Blue Jays had won four in a row.

Lou Trivino (2-7) got the final seven outs and the win. Adam Cimber (9-5) took the loss.



Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Nick Pivetta delivers during the first inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles in Williamsport, Pa., Sunday, Aug. 21, 2022.

Mets 10, Phillies 9

In Philadelphia, reliever Nate Fisher pitched three scoreless innings in his major league debut, Mark Canha hit two homers and drove in five runs and New York rallied past Philadelphia.

Canha's second homer was a go-ahead, two-run drive in the ninth inning. Brandon Nimmo hit a solo homer two batters later for the NL East leaders, who took three of four in the series.

Fisher, who a year ago was working in a bank, allowed one hit while striking out one and walking two.

Alec Bohm hit a pair of three-run homers and Jean Segura also went deep for the Phillies, who have lost four of five. Philadelphia entered second in the NL wild-card race. David Robertson (3-1) took the loss.

Astros 5, Braves 4

In Atlanta, Atlanta outfielder Marcell Ozuna was booed by his home fans in his return, Kyle Tucker singled to drive in Jordan Alvarez for the go-ahead run in the eighth and Houston beat the Braves to avoid a three-game sweep.

José Urquidy (12-4) gave up two runs and five hits. He walked two and struck out six in seven innings for the AL-leading Astros.

The Braves started Ozuna in left field, and the embattled left fielder was booed each time he came to the plate after getting charged for DUI early Friday morning. It was Ozuna's first appearance on the field since his arrest. He struck out in his only at-bats before getting pulled for a pinch-hitter in the seventh.

Matt Olson hit a two-run homer for the Braves. Reliever Dylan Lee (3-1) took

the loss.

Dodgers 10, Marlins 3

In Los Angeles, rookie Ryan Pepiot celebrated his 25th birthday by getting the best of a matchup with All-Star and Cy Young Award candidate Sandy Alcantara in Los Angeles' win over Miami.

Pepiot held the Marlins to two runs on four hits as Los Angeles won its ninth consecutive home game. Cody Bellinger and Max Muncy hit a home runs and Will Smith drove in three runs for the Dodgers.

Alcantara (11-6) was no match for the Dodgers. Alcantara's 3 2/3 innings were a season low, while his six runs and 10 hits allowed were season highs. The right-hander had one walk and five strikeouts.

After struggling with his control at the start of his major league career, Pepiot (2-0) gave up two walks with seven strikeouts over six innings.

Cardinals 6, Diamondbacks 4

In Phoenix, Nolan Arenado hit a two-run single in the seventh inning and finished with three RBIs, helping St. Louis stretch its winning streak to seven games.

Trailing 4-3, the Cardinals loaded the bases in the seventh after pinch-hitter Albert Pujols singled off Joe Mantiplay (1-4) and Kevin Ginkel hit Paul Goldschmidt with a pitch. Arenado, who had a run-scoring single in the first inning, lined a single to right-center to put St. Louis up 5-4.

Jake Woodford (2-0) allowed a hit in 1 1/3 innings and Giovanny Gallegos worked a perfect ninth for his 12th save to complete the NL Central-leading Cardinals'

seventh sweep this season.

Lars Nootbaar hit his first career leadoff homer and Tommy Edman added a run-scoring single for the Cardinals.

Rays 3, Royals 2

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Harold Ramirez had three hits and drove in two runs, leading Tampa Bay past Kansas City.

The Rays have won seven of nine, and held opponents to three runs or fewer in eight of their last nine games.

Kansas City right-hander Zack Greinke was lifted after allowing two runs and five hits over four innings. Jose Cuas (2-2) started the fifth and took the loss.

Shawn Armstrong (2-1) went 1 1/3 scoreless innings for the win, while Pete Fairbanks worked the ninth to get his fourth save.

Tigers 4, Angels 0

In Detroit, Eduardo Rodriguez pitched five shutout innings in his return to Detroit in a win over Los Angeles.

The Tigers' Riley Greene had a 448-foot homer on the first pitch he saw from Angels starter Shohei Ohtani (10-8) — the longest home run Ohtani has allowed in the majors. Greene ended up reaching base four times.

Ohtani left the game with a stomach virus after four innings, in which he allowed three runs on five hits and four walks.

Rodriguez (2-3) hadn't pitched in the majors since suffering a rib-cage injury on May 18.

Rangers 7, Twins 0

In Minneapolis, Marcus Semien and Nathaniel Lowe homered, Kohei Arihara pitched a career-high six in-

nings and combined with Taylor Hearn for the shutout for Texas.

Semien drove in three runs as the Rangers won for the third time in four games. Adolis García extended his hitting streak to 18 games, the longest current streak in the majors.

Arihara (1-1) was impressive in just his second major league start of the season, giving up four hits and pitching into the seventh inning. Hearn earned his first career save.

Ryan (9-6) allowed two hits and two runs, but he walked three and was done after 6 1/3 innings when Texas put together a three-run inning off Ryan and reliever Trevor Megill.

Brewers 5, Cubs 2

In Chicago, Keston Hiura homered twice and drove in three runs, and Milwaukee beat Chicago to salvage the finale of the weekend series.

Rowdy Tellez also connected and Willy Adames hit a tie-breaking sacrifice fly for Milwaukee, which had dropped three of four.

Brent Suter (5-3) got four outs for the win on manager Craig Counsell's 52nd birthday, and Taylor Rogers worked the ninth for his first save since he was acquired in the Aug. 1 trade that sent Josh Hader to San Diego.

Chicago got homers from Ian Happ and Seiya Suzuki, but finished with just five hits. Rowan Wick (3-6) took the loss.

Giants 9, Rockies 8, 11 innings

In Denver, Wilmer Flores delivered a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the 11th inning, Evan Longoria had a grand slam among his three hits and San Francisco averted a series sweep.

Elehuris Montero homered for the third time in three games for Colorado. Randal Grichuk and Brian Serven also homered.

The Rockies came back from three- and two-run deficits late to tie it, before the Giants finally prevailed when LaMonte Wade Jr. opened the 11th with a sacrifice bunt off Jake Bird (1-4) to advance automatic runner Mike Yastrzemski to third. Flores followed with a sacrifice fly to right field as the Giants snapped a four-game losing streak.

Dominic Leone (4-4) picked up the win and Zack Littell got three outs for his first save.

Athletics 5, Mariners 3

In Oakland, Calif., Shea Langeliers got three hits, including Oakland's first triple

after an 81-game drought in a win over Seattle.

No team in major league history had gone longer without a triple since 1901 until Langeliers, a catcher, hit an RBI drive in the eighth inning. He had two triples this season in Triple-A.

JP Sears (5-0) allowed one run, on Mitch Haniger's homer, in five innings. Six A's relievers held the lead for the team with the worst record in the AL.

Seattle, near the top of the wild-card standings, lost for the second straight day to the A's. Cal Raleigh had two doubles for the Mariners. Luis Castillo (1-1) yielded four runs and eight hits in five innings.

Reds 9, Pirates 5

In Pittsburgh, Jake Fraley had three RBIs and scored four times in Cincinnati's win over Pittsburgh.

Fraley led off Sunday by grooving an 0-2 curveball from Zach Thompson (3-10) 341 feet to right for his seventh homer and fourth in six games. He walked in three of his next four at bats, and also drove in two runs with a single off the right-field wall in the sixth.

Cincinnati took two of three from Pittsburgh, which has dropped eight of 10.

Reds left-hander Mike Minor (2-10) won for the first time since June 13, despite surrendering five runs on nine hits.

Minor gave up two in the first, but was handed back a 3-2 lead when Mike Moustakas hit a two-run home run in the third that went 416 feet and landed in the final row above the wall in right.

Fraley scored the third of four runs off Manny Bañuelos in the sixth, stealing second after his two-run single before going home on a triple from Jonathan India. Donovan Solano capped the outburst with an RBI single, making it 7-2.

Thompson worked five innings, allowing three runs on eight hits with five strikeouts and three walks.

Padres 2, Nationals 1

In San Diego, Josh Bell hit a two-run homer and Sean Manaea pitched seven strong innings as San Diego beat Washington to earn a series split.

Manaea (7-6) scattered five hits and allowed one run, a solo homer by Nelson Cruz in the fourth, for his first win since July 31. Nick Martinez earning his fifth save.

Nationals starter Patrick Corbin (4-17) gave up two runs on nine hits in 5 1/3 innings — his sixth loss without a win dating to July 9.

Udonis Haslem says he's coming back for 20th year with Heat



MIAMI (AP)—Kobe Bryant. Dirk Nowitzki. And now, Udonis Haslem.

Miami's captain is returning to the Heat for a 20th season, he announced Sunday. It's a one-year deal worth \$2.9 million; Miami extended the offer nearly two months ago, then waited for Haslem to decide between retiring and returning.

Nowitzki played all 21 of his NBA seasons with the Dallas Mavericks, Bryant spent all 20 of his seasons with the Los Angeles Lakers and when he appears in his next game, Haslem will join them as a player spending at least two decades in the league and all with one franchise.

"I have decided to follow through with what me and my father had talked about, and I will finish what I started and I will play 20 years," Haslem said, seated at mid-court at Miami High, his alma mater. "I will play this year, because I talked about that with my father and that's what we said we would do. It won't be the same. Won't be as easy. But the goal still remains the same. Win. Win a championship. Leave it on the line and hold your head



Miami Heat forward Udonis Haslem drives to the court during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Sacramento Kings, March 28, 2022, in Miami.

high when it's all over."

Tim Duncan spent 19 seasons with San Antonio and John Stockton spent 19 with Utah.

The 42-year-old Haslem is by far the longest-tenured player in Heat history. He is a three-time NBA champion with Miami and is the franchise's all-time leader in rebounds. This contract is the 11th he has signed with the Heat, and this marks the seventh consecutive summer in which he has signed a deal with the team.

His father, Johnnie Haslem, died Aug. 30, 2021. Udonis Haslem spent about two weeks away from the Heat at the start of camp and the preseason last year while grieving, and he said not having either of his parents still alive forced him to reevaluate many things in the past year.

"Even at 42, you look around and you don't have both of your parents, you can be confused," Haslem said. "It can be confusing. ... But never have I been more clear than I am now. I just had to clear the cobwebs out."

Haslem was the oldest player to appear in each of the last two NBA seasons. He got into 13 games with Miami last season, averaging 2.5 points and 1.9 rebounds.

He has had 162 different teammates during his Heat career. And this season the NBA might include players who weren't even born when Haslem entered the league. Haslem made his NBA debut on Oct. 28, 2003 — three weeks before Jalen Duren, the No. 13 pick in this year's NBA draft, was born.

Haslem has averaged 7.5 points and 6.6 rebounds in his first 19 seasons, playing sparingly the last six years. But the Heat have insisted his role remains vital in practice and in the locker room, annually finding ways to keep luring Haslem back.

This contract will take Haslem past the \$70 million mark in on-court earnings. After the coming season, Haslem said he hopes to join the Heat's front office and has mentioned his desire to possibly join the ownership group in the years to come.

"This ain't no (expletive) charity case. This is a sacrifice, sacrificing for the next generation," Haslem said. "As the bearer of Heat culture, I take it serious. It's not a game. It's not a joke. I know people talk about it. People, they may have this stigma of what it is and what it's not. But it's real. It is real. The culture is real. The culture has saved very many guys, not just me."

NBA schedule won't have games on Election Day this year

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

The NBA will be off on Election Day.

The league's schedule for the coming season will have all 30 teams playing on Nov. 7, the night before the midterm elections. The NBA is hoping teams use that night as an opportunity to encourage fans to get out and vote, plus amplify the need for civic engagement.

But on Nov. 8, which is Election Day, no NBA teams have games scheduled. Teams are being encouraged to share election information — such as registration deadlines — with their fan bases in the weeks leading up to Nov. 8.

"The scheduling decision came out of the NBA family's focus on promoting nonpartisan civic engagement and encouraging fans to make a plan to vote during midterm elections," the league said Tuesday.

All 435 U.S. House seats will be up for grabs on Nov. 8, along with more than 30 U.S. Senate seats and gubernatorial races.

"It's unusual. We don't usually change the schedule for an external event," James Cadogan, the ex-



Mary Peltola leaves a voting booth while early voting, Aug. 12, 2022, in Anchorage, Alaska.

ecutive director of the NBA's social justice coalition, told NBC, which first reported the league's Election Day schedule plan. "But voting and Election Day are obviously unique and incredibly important to our democracy."

The move is a rarity for the league, which typically plays no games on Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve and tries to avoid scheduling games on the

day of the NCAA men's basketball championship game — often the first Monday of April. It also has a few days off built around the All-Star Game, which takes place in February.

The NBA and its players were openly involved in several election-related pushes in 2020, largely as part of the response after the deaths of George Floyd and Breonna

Taylor reignited the quest to eliminate racial inequality and police brutality.

Many players, including LeBron James, were involved in voting registration drives and other get-out-the-vote initiatives. Some teams turned their arenas into registration or voting centers.

The NBA's full schedule for the season will be released Wednesday.

There are some sporting events in the U.S. scheduled for Nov. 8. The NHL has 11 games on Election Day this year, with eight of those in the U.S. And there are three FBS-level college football games being played on Nov. 8, all in the state of Ohio.

Major League Baseball's season should be over by Election Day; the latest possible date for the World Series, barring postponements, is Saturday, Nov. 5. The NFL hardly ever plays on Tuesdays — there have been seven games on that day of the week since 1948, six of them for coronavirus-related rescheduling reasons in the last two years — and has no games scheduled this year on Nov. 8.

"The NBA is creating a culture of political participation, which extends not only to its athletes but to fans as well," said Andrea Hailey, the CEO of Vote.org, which has partnered with the NBPA on various initiatives in recent years. "Players, coaches, event staff and fans all deserve to have the time and space to make their voices heard at the ballot box. The league is setting an important precedent that I hope other businesses and leagues will follow."

Tritons' GML season ends with loss to Rangers



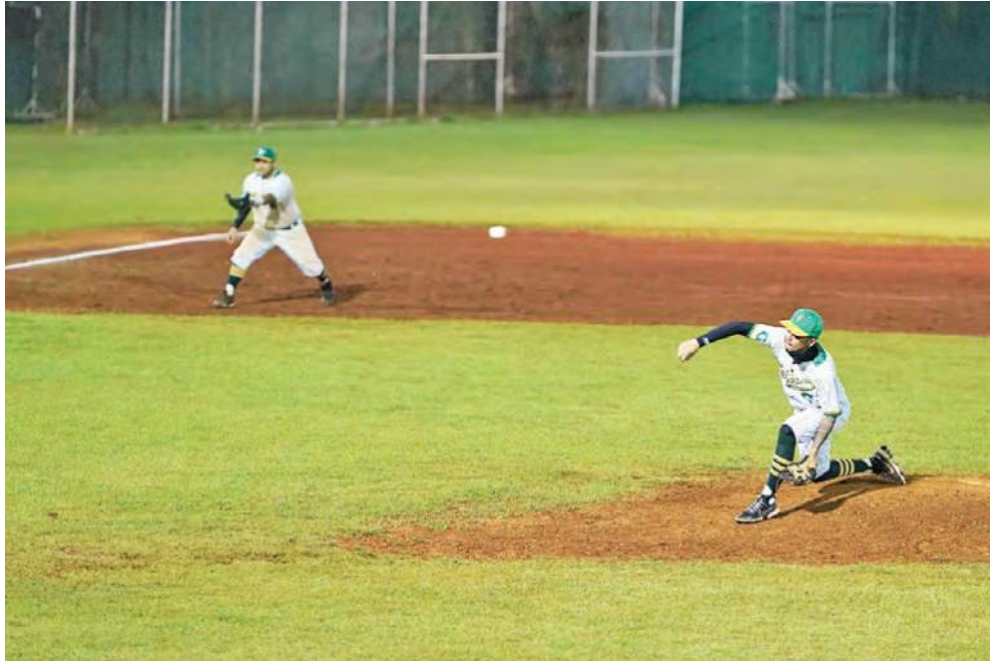
The University of Guam's Triton Baseball Team ended their spring 2022 Guam Major League season on Saturday night at Paseo Stadium with a 14-8 loss to the Talo'fo'fo Rangers in a wildcard playoff game.

The Tritons were seeded fourth in the GML playoffs while the Rangers were the final team to make the playoffs as the No. 6 seed. UOG had a regular season victory over the Rangers, 9-8, back on May 30.

The Tritons took the opening lead of the game, 1-0, in the bottom of the first, while the Rangers tied the game in the top of the second. The Tritons came back again to take a 2-1 lead after two innings. The Rangers struck for three runs in the top of the fourth to lead 4-2, but UOG tied the game up 4-4 in the bottom of the fifth.

But the Rangers struck for seven runs in the top of the sixth with the key hit being a bases-loaded double by Brandon Rosario clearing the bases and putting the Rangers up, 11-4. Talo'fo'fo would add three more runs in the top of the seventh to take a 14-4 lead.

The Tritons were threatened by being 10-run mercy ruled in the bottom of the seventh, but UOG rallied for four runs to



UOG
The University of Guam's O'Neil Yobech pitches against the Talo'fo'fo Rangers in their 2022 Guam Major League wildcard playoff game last Saturday night at the Paseo Stadium.

keep the game going, and trailing 14-8 with two more at-bats to go, but the Tritons could only muster one hit over the last two innings to drop the game, 14-8, and were eliminated from the GML postseason.

Pitcher O'Neil Yobech took the loss for UOG, giving up 11 runs and 9 hits over six innings, but the Triton defense also played a major part in the loss, committing 10 errors in the game. Bam Tequero went 3-5 for the Tritons in the game.

Rollen Rabago led the

Rangers, going 4-6 in the game with one double and scoring two runs. Anthony Concepcion got the win for the Rangers, getting 4 Ks in six innings of work.

The Tritons finished the season with an 8-6 record, but after a solid start to the GML season, being 7-2 in the first nine games, UOG faded in the final five games, going 1-4 to end the GML spring of 2022.

The Rangers moved to 8-5 on the season and now face the Guam Junior Nationals in one

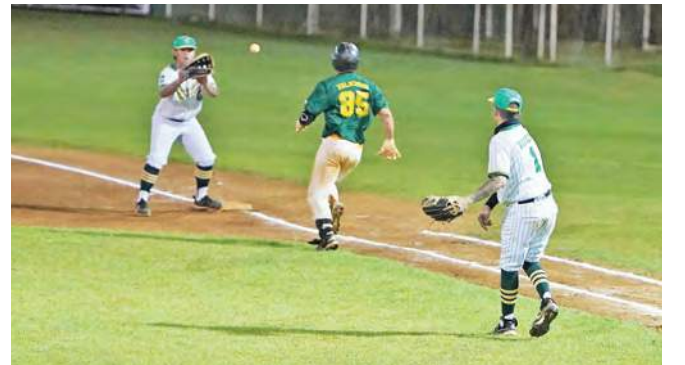
of the two semi-final pairing (3-out-of-5 series).

UOG will move on to the Guam Amateur League that starts shortly, and it will be the Tritons fall season. The Tritons have fall tryouts on Thursday and Friday at 4pm, Aug. 25-26, at George Washington High School Baseball Field. The Amateur League starts over the Labor Day weekend with a 10-team league.

"This was a great first step in the return of UOG Baseball to the island of Guam and



UOG
The University of Guam's Kolby Martinez against the Talo'fo'fo Rangers in their 2022 Guam Major League wildcard playoff game last Saturday night at the Paseo Stadium.



UOG
The University of Guam's O'Neil Yobech makes a defensive play against the Talo'fo'fo Rangers in their 2022 Guam Major League wildcard playoff game last Saturday night at the Paseo Stadium.

while we feel disappointed in what this first GML season could have been, I think back to March, an 8-6 record with a GML playoff berth would have been considered a dream season for the team and so it

was. We will see what we can do in the Guam Amateur League this fall and build toward our second Guam Major League run in the spring of 2023," said UOG Athletics director Doug Palmer. **(PR)**

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	74	48	.607	
Tampa Bay	65	55	.542	8
Toronto	65	55	.542	8
Baltimore	63	58	.521	10½
Boston	60	62	.492	14

Central Division

Cleveland	64	56	.533	
Minnesota	62	57	.521	1½
Chicago	62	59	.512	2½
Kansas City	49	74	.398	16½
Detroit	47	76	.382	18½

West Division

Houston	78	45	.634	
Seattle	66	56	.541	11½
Texas	55	66	.455	22
Los Angeles	52	69	.430	25
Oakland	45	77	.369	32½

NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division

New York	79	44	.642	
Atlanta	75	48	.610	4
Philadelphia	66	55	.545	12
Miami	52	69	.430	26
Washington	41	82	.333	38

Central Division

St. Louis	69	51	.575	
Milwaukee	64	56	.533	5
Chicago	52	68	.433	17
Cincinnati	48	71	.403	20½
Pittsburgh	47	74	.388	22½

West Division

Los Angeles	84	36	.700	
San Diego	68	56	.548	18
San Francisco	60	61	.496	24½
Arizona	55	66	.455	29½
Colorado	53	70	.431	32½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CARMELITA

From Page 20

Carmelita II's youngest crew, meanwhile, authored the team's battle cry in every derby, which is "Always never give up on the *Carmelita*."

Castro, Koshiro, and Fiel have been joining fishing tournaments together the past

TRIP

From Page 20

now so it's a different experience with new people and perspective. We had practice with Morgan Aiken and it was really nice because it made us better. During our stay we also had scrimmages against teams from Guam and overall was a great experience," said Chavez, who represented the CNMI in athletics and was considered for the triathlon team in the recent Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 and is also a budding soccer star.

Her teammate, Kaia Travilla, echoed Lumabi when she said that the camp was a great learning experience for the whole team.

"This is our first time playing together with a new set of players, but I think this is a great way to build chemistry and learn from each other.

three years.

Coming in second to *Carmelita II* in the Mix Classic was *Little Missy* of captain George David.

David and his crew of Lawrence Fleming and Jesstin Laniyo had a 60.1-lb haul in the one-day fishing tournament after reeling in a 29.8-lb spearfish and a 30.3-lb yellowfin. They brought home \$2,000 and

I'm having a great time learning from Morgan Aiken and I look forward to expanding my knowledge in basketball," she said.

Aside from Chavez and Travilla, the other seven 17-and-under players that trained last week with Aiken at the Ballers Gymnasium in Harmon were Kyna Delos Reyes, Lency Sagarino, Tasilyn Ramon, Andera Ramos, Kaeli Pathil, Yasmeen Younis, and Mia Abuan.

RBA founder and head coach Joe Diaz, for his part, said Aiken's camp was a great eye-opener for the girls since it gave them the perspective of a professional player.

"It's very basic but it's more for game-specific situations because he's a professional basketball player. He was very detailed as a trainer and I'd like to have him conduct a camp for our NMI Rollers Basketball Associa-

some MARPAC gear.

Headliner 2 of captain Max Mogor finished third place and pocketed \$1,000 with their 40.8-lb total made up of a 33.9-lb wahoo and a 6.9-lb skipjack.

Fourth place was *Mako* of captain Jeff Elliot and crewmembers Jamion Elliot, Nick Gross, Micah Page, James Eller, and John Matthews.

Their 32.3 lbs of fish (a

tion on Saipan. Because they always hear it from a local coach, but once they hear it from a pro they'll say 'that's what coach said' but they don't really absorb it because they see us everyday at practice in our club. But once they hear it from a pro, they get it and they become better and better," he said.

Diaz was also proud of how the RBA girls 17-and-under team acquitted themselves well in Aiken's basketball camp.

"Camps like these make us understand why you play in the national team. Also they showed great work ethic. Our Rollers girls everyday woke up at 4am to run a mile for 7 minutes and then after a light breakfast went straight to camp. Being an athlete is different from being a basketball player. Being an athlete is all about grinding everyday," he said.

13.3-lb yellowfin and a 19-lb wahoo) gave them winnings worth \$700.

The Top 3 in the 2022 Mix Classic also took home handsome trophies with Catsro and company also getting \$800 for winning the side bet of the heaviest fish.

Tasi to Table Inc. congratuated all the winners and thanked all the participants of the Inaugural Mix Classic. They also extended their heartfelt gratitude to the following sponsors: MARPAC, Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods, FJR Enterprises, WESPAC, KKMP, Marianas Visitors Authority, UR Tents, Island Image & Motion, Roil

Soil, and the Department of Public Works.

The Inaugural Mix Classic is a new fishing tournament focusing on targeted pelagic fish species. However, in order to qualify your catch, submitting captains/anglers' catch must include a combination of the qualifying pelagic species. Qualifying pelagic species are as follows: billfish, yellowfin tuna, wahoo, mahi mahi, and skipjack tuna.

The combined weight of the two different pelagic species selected by the team in competition is their weight category to determine the winner. Two of the same species do not qualify.

CUKI

From Page 20

serve in other capacities.

"We would love to coach and compete and represent the CNMI in wrestling again...I believe the last time CNMI had a wrestling team was way back in 2006, where Frank Camacho took gold, Jose Quan took silver, and I took bronze in our respective divisions," he said.

In the 2006 Micronesian Games on Saipan, the host CNMI won five of the 42 medals at stake in the wrestling competition.

Palau topped the standings with a 4-1-1 gold-silver-bronze medal haul with Olympian Elgin Loren Elwais ruling the 60kg divisions of the Greco-Roman and freestyle events. Mixed martial arts veteran Frank "The Crank" Camacho won the lone gold medal for the CNMI when he topped the freestyle's 84-kg division, while Jose Quan settled for the silver behind Palau's Francis Gibbons in freestyle's 66-kg weight class. John Lizama (55 kg Greco-Roman and freestyle) and Cuki Alvarez (74 kg freestyle) clinched bronze medals.



Mateo lifts Orioles
past Boston in
MLB Little League
Classic
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Saipan Tribune Sports

Tritons' GML season
ends with loss to
Rangers
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20 TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2022

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Carmelita II rules Mix Classic



FLOYD MASGA

Carmelita II's Reynaldo "Balong" Fiel and captain Jeremy Koshiro, right, pose with their 158-lb marlin during last Saturday's Tasi To Table Inc. Inaugural Mix Classic.

MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A boat owned by Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro won the Tasi To Table Inc. Inaugural Mix Classic held last Saturday in the waters off the CNMI.



Carmelita II won the \$3,000 top purse, assorted gear from MARPAC, a year's worth of bragging rights after Castro, captain Jeremy Koshiro, and deckhand Reynaldo "Balong" Fiel caught a total of 178.3 lbs of eligible fish that included a 158-lb marlin and a 20.3-lb wahoo.

Koshiro said they caught all their fish around Goat Island by essentially using marlin lures.

"We were just running the lures...Our first catch was around 7:30am when we caught our first wahoo. Then our second wahoo was around 11am and then we got the marlin around 2pm," he said.

Koshiro added that the mar-

lin didn't really put up much of a fight as they landed it in only about 20 minutes.

"We already knew it was a marlin but we didn't think it was that big. [I'm] dedicating this to chief justice for having me on this boat...[I] really don't know what he'll do with the money," he said.

Koshiro pretty much has worked in the water all his life as he readily volunteered that fishing runs in the family and immediately after high school he found work on the beach.

See CARMELITA on Page 19



MARK RABAGO

Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro, captain Jeremy Koshiro, and deckhand Reynaldo "Balong" Fiel proudly show off their first place plaque aboard the Carmelita II after topping Tasi To Table Inc.'s Inaugural Mix Classic last Saturday.

Cuki: MMA can make the 'easy transition' to wrestling

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Trench Tech Gym founder Justis "Cuki" Alvarez said the islands' mixed martial arts practitioners can easily transition to wrestling if ever the sport is included in future editions of the Pacific Games, Mini Games, or Mi-

cronesian Games.

"It will be a pretty easy transition because we have always trained the basics in wrestling at our gym," he told Saipan Tribune.

The retired MMA fighter nicknamed "The Cockroach" and "The Janitor" also said that aside from suiting up, local MMA practitioners are also willing to

See CUKI on Page



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Frank "The Crank" Camacho, bottom, tries to get out of a choke hold by Brandon Vera in this file photo taken during one of their training sessions in Guam.

'Trip was a great learning experience'

MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The NMI Rollers Basketball Association's girls 17-and-under team is back on Saipan after spending most of last week taking part in the basketball camp of B.League player Morgan Aiken.

RBA girls 17-and-under coach Marlene Lumabi said the whole trip was a great learning experience for both the coaches and players.

"The players learned a lot from our trainer, Morgan Aiken. He went over the fundamentals and was able to answer many of our players' questions. The whole training was meant to focus on fundamentals."

The CNMI women's national player said their sessions with the Yamaguchi Patriots guard in the mornings were complemented further by scrimmages against the Yellow Jacket, the U15 Guam Select, the JFK High School

Basketball Team, and the University of Guam Lady Tritons in the evenings.

"As we were training, we had scheduled scrimmages at night. The scrimmages were perfect to test run the skills the girls obtained from Morgan. As a coach, I saw that each girl was using

what Morgan taught them and when I was on the court with them, I felt the progress. I want to take the time to thank all the teams we scrimmaged against, our trainer, and our sponsors (IT&E and CNMI lawmakers.) This experience wouldn't be possible without their help and

support," she said.

One of the members of the RBA girls 17-and-under, Kaitlyn Chavez, said attending a basketball camp was a welcome change.

"I was really excited about the basketball camp because it's my first camp for basketball and it's a different sport

See TRIP on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMI Rollers Basketball Association's girls 17-and-under team poses with the University of Guam Lady Tritons after their scrimmage last Saturday.